

Romania

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Romania

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RomaniaRomâniaFlag of RomaniaCoat of arms of RomaniaAnthem: Deșteaptă-te, române!Awaken thee, Romanian!Location of Romania (dark green): on the EuropeEuropean continent (incl. the EU) in the European UnionLocation of Romania (dark green): on the EuropeEuropean continent (incl. the EU) in the European UnionCapital(and largest city)Bucharest44°25′N 26°06′EOfficial language(s)Romanian languageRomanianRecognised regional languagesHungarian languageHungarian, German languageGerman, Romani languageRomaniEthnic groups (2011)88.6% Romanians6.5% Hungarians in RomaniaHungarians3.2% Roma minority in RomaniaRoma1.7% minorities of Romaniaaother minorities "Romanian 2011 census (Romanian)[[Category:Articles with Romanian language external links]"]. www.edrc.ro. . Retrieved 2010-02-22.DemonymRomaniansRomanianGovernmentUnitary stateUnitary Semi-presidential systemsemi-presidential republic - President of RomaniaPresidentTraian Băsescu - Prime Minister of RomaniaPrime MinisterVictor PontaLegislatureParliament of RomaniaParliament - Upper houseSenate of RomaniaSenate - Lower houseChamber of Deputies of RomaniaChamber of DeputiesHistory of RomaniaFormation - United PrincipalitiesLittle Union124 January 1859 - Romanian War of IndependenceIndependence from the Ottoman Empire21877/1878 - Union of Transylvania with RomaniaGreat Union31 December 1918 Area - Total238,391 km2 (List of countries and outlying territories by total area83rd)92,043 sq mi - Water (%)3Population - 2011 census19,042,936 (List of countries by population59th) - Density80/km2 (List of sovereign states and dependent territories by population density121st)207/sq miGross domestic productGDP (Purchasing power parityPPP)2011 estimate - Total\$267.151 billion "Romania". International Monetary Fund. . Retrieved 20 April 2012. - Per capita\$12,476Gross domestic productGDP (nominal)2011 estimate - Total\$189.776 billion - Per capita\$8,863Gini_coefficientGini (2008)32 "CIA – The World Factbook – Field Listing :: Distribution of family income – Gini index". Central Intelligence Agency. . Retrieved 31 December 2010. (medium) Human Development IndexHDI (2011) 0.781 "Human Development Report 2010". United Nations. 2010. . Retrieved 5 November 2010. (high) (List of countries by Human Development Index50th)CurrencyRomanian leu (ISO 4217RON) Time zoneEastern European TimeEET (Coordinated Universal TimeUTC+2) - Summer (Daylight saving timeDST)Eastern European Summer TimeEEST (Coordinated Universal TimeUTC+3)Drives on therightISO 3166ISO 3166 codeISO 3166-2:ROROCountry code top-level domainInternet TLD.ro4Calling codeTelephone numbers in Romania401 The double election of Alexandru Ioan Cuza in Moldavia and Wallachia (5 January, respectively 24 January 1859).2 Independence proclaimed on 9 May 1877, internationally recognized in 1878.3The union of Romania with Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania in 1918.4 Also .eu, shared with European Union member states. Romania (Listeni/roʃ'meɪniə/ roh-MAY-nee-ə; dated: Roumania;Cf. French Roumanie. or Rumania; Rumania - Google Books. Books.google.co.uk. 8 April 1918. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. Rumania: her history and politics - David Mitrany - Google Books. Books.google.co.uk. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. Romanian languageRomanian: România Romanian pronunciation: [romi'ni.a] (listen)) is a country located at the intersection of Central EuropeCentral and Southeast EuropeSoutheastern Europe, on the lower Danube, within and outside the Carpathian MountainsCarpathian arch, bordering on the Black Sea. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (Report). NATO. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Romania shares a border with Hungary and Serbia to the west, Ukraine and Moldova to the northeast and east, and Bulgaria to the south.At 238400 square kilometers (unknown operator:

u'strong' sq mi), Romania is the List of European Union member states by areaninth largest country of the European Union by area, and has the List of European Union member states by populationseventh largest population of the European Union with over 19 million people. "Romanian 2011 census". . Retrieved 2012-02-16. Its capital and largest city is Bucharest, the Largest cities of the European Union by population within city limitstenth largest city in the EU, with a population of around two million. The United Principalities emerged when the principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia were united under Prince Alexander Ioan Cuza in 1859. In 1881, Carol I of Romania was crowned, forming the Kingdom of Romania. Independence from the Ottoman Empire was Romanian War of Independencedeclared on 9 May 1877, and was internationally Treaty of Berlin (1878)recognized the following year. At the end of World War I, Transylvania, Bukovina and Bessarabia united with the Kingdom of Romania. Greater Romania emerged into an era of progression and prosperity that would continue until World War II. By the end of the War, many north-eastern areas of Romania's territories were occupied by the Soviet Union, and Romania forcibly became a Communist Romaniasocialist republic and a member of the Warsaw Pact. With the fall of the Iron Curtain and the Romanian Revolution of 19891989 Revolution, Romania began its transition towards democracy and a capitalist market economy. After a decade of post-revolution economic problems and living standards decline, extensive reforms fostered economic recovery. As of 2010, Romania is an upper middle-income country with high Human Development Indexhuman development. Statistics|Human Development Reports (HDR)|United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Hdr.undp.org. 7thRetrieved on 2010-08-21.Romania joined NATO on 29 March 2004, Accession of Romania to the European Unionthe European Union on 1 January 2007 and is also a member of the Latin Union; the organisation internationale de la FrancophonieFrancophonie; the Organization for Security and Co-operation in EuropeOSCE; the World Trade OrganizationWTO; the Organization of the Black Sea Economic CooperationBSEC; and the United Nations. Today, Romania is a unitary stateunitary semi-presidential republic, in which the executive branch consists of the President of RomaniaPresident and the Government of RomaniaGovernment.Tony Verheijen (1990-03-14). "Oxford Scholarship Online: Semi-Presidentialism in Europe". Oxfordscholarship.com. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.EtymologyThe name România is a derivative of the Latin romanus, meaning Ancient Rome"citizen of Rome". "Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language, 1998; New Explanatory Dictionary of the Romanian Language, 2002". Dexonline.ro. . Retrieved 2010-09-25. (Romanian) The first mention of the appellation was made in the 16th century by ItaliansItalian humanists travelling in Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia.Andréas Verres. Acta et Epistolae. I. p. 243. ""nunc se Romanos vocant""Cl. Isopescu (1929). "Notizie intorno ai romeni nella letteratura geografica italiana del Cinquecento". Bulletin de la Section Historique XVI: 1–90. ""...si dimandano in lingua loro Romei...se alcuno dimanda se sano parlare in la lingua valacca, dicono a questo in questo modo: Sti Rominești ? Che vol dire: Sai tu Romano,...""Maria Holban (1983) (in Romanian). Călători străini despre Țările Române. II. Ed. Științifică și Enciclopedică. pp. 158–161. ""Anzi essi si chiamano romaneschi, e vogliono molti che erano mandati quì quei che erano dannati a cavar metalli...""Paul Cernovodeanu (1960) (in Romanian). Voyage fait par moy, Pierre Lescalopier l'an 1574 de Venise a Constantinople, fol 48. IV. p. 444. ""Tout ce pays la Wallachie et Moldavie et la plus part de la Transvanie a esté peuplé des colonie romaines du temps de Traian l'empereur...Ceux du pays se disent vrais successeurs des Romains et nomment leur parler romanechte, c'est-à-dire romain ...""Neacșu's Letter from 1521, the oldest surviving document written in Romanian languageRomanianThe oldest surviving document written in Romanian languageRomanian, a 1521 letter known as the "Neacșu's LetterLetter of Neacșu from Câmpulung", Ion Rotaru, Literatura română veche, "The Letter of Neacșu from Câmpulung", București, 1981, pp. 62–65 (English) is also notable for having the first documented occurrence of the country's name: Wallachia is mentioned as Țeara Rumânească ("The Romanian Land", țeara from the Latinterra, "land"; current spelling: Țara Rumânească).Two spelling forms: român and rumân were used interchangeably "am scris aceste sfente cărți de învățători, să fie popilor rumânești... să înțeleagă toți oamenii cine-s rumâni creștini" "Întrebare creștinească" (1559), Bibliografia românească veche, IV, 1944, p. 6. "...că văzum cum toate limbile au și înfluresc întru cuvintele slăvite a lui Dumnezeu numai noi românii pre limbă nu avem. Pentru aceia cu mare muncă scoasem de limba jidovească si grecească si srăbească pre limba românească 5 cărți ale lui Moisi prorocul si patru cărți și le dăruim voo frați rumâni și le-au scris în cheltuială multă... și le-au dăruit voo

fraților români,... și le-au scris voo fraților români" *Palia de la Orăștie* (1581–1582), București, 1968. În *Țara Ardealului* nu lăcuiesc numai unguri, ce și sași peste seamă de mulți și români peste tot locul..., Grigore Ureche, *Letopisețul Țării Moldovei*, p. 133–134. until socio-linguistic evolutions in the late 17th century led to a process of semantic differentiation: the form *rumân* received the meaning of "indentured servant/bondsman", while the form *român* kept an ethno-linguistic meaning. Brezeanu, Stelian (1999). *Romanitatea Orientală în Evul Mediu*. Bucharest: Editura All Educational. pp. 229–246. After the abolition of serfdom in 1746, the form *rumân* gradually disappeared and the spelling stabilised to the form *român*. In his well known literary testament *Ienăchiță Văcărescu* writes: "Urmașilor mei Văcărești!/Las vouă moștenire:/Creșterea limbei românești/Ș-a patriei cinstire." In the "Istoria faptelor lui Mavroghene-Vodă și a răzmeriței din timpul lui pe la 1790" a Pitar Hristache writes: "Încep după-a mea idee/Cu vreo câteva condeie/Povestea mavroghenească/Dela Țara Românească. Tudor Vladimirescu, a revolutionary leader of the early 19th century, used the term *Rumânia* to refer exclusively to the principality of Wallachia. Goina, Călin. How the State Shaped the Nation: an Essay on the Making of the Romanian Nation in Regio – Minorities, Politics, Society. *Ethnographic Museum (Budapest) Néprajzi Múzeum*. No 1/2005. p. 157 The name *România* as common homeland of all Romanians is documented in the early 19th century. The first known mention of the term *Romania* in its modern denotation dates from 1816, as the Greek scholar Dimitrie Daniel Philippide published in Leipzig his work *The History of Romania*, followed by *The Geography of Romania*. On the Headstone/tombstone of Gheorghe Lazăr in Avrig (built in 1823) there is the inscription: "Precum Hristos pe Lazăr din morți a înviat/Așa tu România din somn ai deșteptat." The name has been officially in use since 11 December 1861. "Wallachia and Moldavia, 1859–61". Retrieved 2008-01-05. English-language sources still used the terms *Rumania* or *Roumania*, derived from the French spelling *Roumanie*, as recently as World War II, "Map of Southern Europe, 1942–1945". United States Army Center of Military History via the University of Texas at Austin Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection. Retrieved 2008-08-31. but the name has since been replaced with the official spelling *Romania*. "General principles" (in Romanian). *cdep.ro*. Retrieved 2009-09-07. History Prehistory and antiquity Emperor Trajan's annexation of Dacia in 106 set the stage for the ethnogenesis of modern Romanians Some 42,000-year-old human remains were discovered in the "Peștera cu Oase/Cave With Bones", and being Europe's oldest remains of *Homo sapiens*, they may represent the first modern humans to have entered the continent. Zilhão, João (2006). "Neanderthals and Moderns Mixed and It Matters". *Evolutionary Anthropology* 15 (5): 183–195. doi:10.1002/evan.20110. The Neolithic Age Cucuteni area in Northeast Romania was the Western region of the earliest European civilization known as the Cucuteni-Trypillian culture. John Noble Wilford (1 December 2009). "A Lost European Culture, Pulled From Obscurity". *The New York Times* (30 November 2009). The earliest written evidence of people living in the territory of the present-day Romania, the Getae, comes from Herodotus, in his *Histories* (Herodotus) *Histories* book IV (c. 440 BC). Herodotus Herodotus (1859). *The Ancient History of Herodotus* By Herodotus [William Beloe]. Derby & Jackson. pp. 213–217. ISBN 0-19-521974-0. Retrieved 2008-01-10. Territories located north of the Danube were inhabited by Dacians, which are considered a part of the Getae tribes mentioned by Herodotus, a branch of Thracian peoples. The Dacia/Dacian kingdom reached its peak between 82–44 BC during the reign of Burebista. Roman emperor Domitian Domitian's Dacian War led military campaigns in the region between 87–88 AD at Tapae. Roman incursions continued in 101–102 AD and 105–106 AD under Trajan, who successfully defeated Dacia and annexed its southwestern parts to the vast Roman Empire. The Dacian population subsequently underwent the ethno-linguistic process of Romanization (cultural) Romanization and the conquered parts Roman Dacia became an imperial province. Due to Alburnus Maior Dacia's rich ore deposits (especially gold and silver), "Dacia-Province of the Roman Empire". United Nations of Roma Victor. Retrieved 2008-01-10. ""and were found in great quantities in the Western Carpathians. After Trajan's conquest, he brought back to Rome over 165 tons of gold and 330 tons of silver"" Rome brought Colonia (Roman) colonists from all over the empire. Deletant, Dennis (1995). *Colloquial Romanian*. New York: Routledge. p. 1. ISBN 978-0-415-12900-8. This introduced Vulgar Latin and started a period of intense Romanization (cultural) romanization that would give birth to the Proto-Romanian language. Matley, Ian (1970). *Romania; a Profile*. Praeger. p. 85. Giurescu, Constantin C. (1972). *The Making of the Romanian People and Language*. Bucharest:

Meridiane Publishing House. pp. 43, 98–101, 141. During the 3rd century AD, with the Migration Period invasions of migratory populations, the Roman Empire was forced to pull out of Dacia around 271 AD, making it the first province to be abandoned. Eutropius (historian) Eutropius; Justin, Cornelius Nepos (1886). *Eutropius, Abridgment of Roman History*. London: George Bell and Sons. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Watkins, Thayer. "The Economic History of the Western Roman Empire". . Retrieved 2008-08-31. ""The Emperor Aurelian recognized the realities of the military situation in Dacia and, around 271 AD., withdrew Roman troops from Dacia, leaving it to the Goths. The Danube once again became the northern frontier of the Roman Empire in eastern Europe""After the Roman army and administration left Dacia, the territory was invaded by various Human migration migratory populations including Goths, Jordanes Jordanes (551 AD.). *Getica, sive, De Origine Actibusque Gothorum*. Constantinople. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Huns, Iliescu, Vl.; Paschale, Chronicon (1970). *Fontes Historiae Daco-Romanae*. II. București. pp. 363, 587. Gepids, Teodor, Dan Gh. (1995). *Istoria României de la începuturi până în secolul al VIII-lea*. 2. București. pp. 294–325. Eurasian Avars Avars, Bóna, István (2001). "History of Transylvania: II.4. The Period of the Avar Rule". In Köpeczi, Béla. New York: Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Columbia University Press. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Bulgars, Pechenegs, Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus Constantine VII, Porphyrogenitus (950). *Constantine Porphyrogenitus De Administrando Imperio*. Constantinople. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. and Cumans. Xenopol, Alexandru D. (1896). *Histoire des Roumains*. i. Paris. p. 168. Several competing theories have been generated to explain the Origin of Romanians origin of modern Romanians. Linguistic and geo-historical analysis tend to indicate that Romanians have coalesced as a major ethnic group both South and North of the Danube in the regions previously colonized by Ancient Rome Romans. Ghyka, Matila (1841). "A Documented Chronology of Roumanian History". Oxford: B. H. Blackwell Ltd.. Archived from the original on 2007-01-25. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Middle Ages The Battle of Posada in the *Chronica Hungarorum* *Gesta Hungarorum* mentioned the existence of three voivodeships in Transylvania in the 9th century: the Voivodeship of Gelou, the Voivodeship of Glad (duke) Glad and the Voivodeship of Menumorut. The anonymous author describes the first as Vlach. ""*Gesta Hungarorum*", the chronicle of Bele Regis Notarius". Scribd.com. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Another voivodeship, ruled by Gyula III Gyula, was mentioned in the 11th century. A 1176 Old Bulgarian inscription attests the existence of a župan Dimitri that ruled over Dobrogea in 943. Ovidiu Drimba – History of Romanian culture and civilization, Scientific and Pedagogic Publishing House, Bucharest, 1987, volume 2, page 404 In the Middle Ages, Romanians lived in three distinct Romanian principalities principalities: Wallachia (Romanian language Romanian: Țara Românească – "Romanian Land"), Moldavia (Romanian language Romanian: Moldova) and Transylvania (Romanian language Romanian: Transilvania). By the 11th century, Transylvania became a largely autonomous part of the Kingdom of Hungary, Makkai, László (2001). "History of Transylvania: III. Transylvania in the Medieval Hungarian Kingdom (896–1526)". In Köpeczi, Béla. New York: Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Columbia University Press. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. and became independent as the Principality of Transylvania (1570–1711) Principality of Transylvania from the 16th century, Köpeczi, Béla, ed. (2001). "History of Transylvania: IV. The First Period of the Principality of Transylvania (1526–1606)". New York: Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Columbia University Press. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. until 1711. Várkonyi, Ágnes R. (2001). "Columbia University Press". In Köpeczi, Béla. *History of Transylvania: VI. The Last Decades of the Independent Principality (1660–1711)*. 2. New York: Institute of History of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In Foundation of Wallachia Wallachia and Foundation of Moldavia Moldavia, many small local states with varying degrees of independence developed, but only in the 14th century did the larger principalities of Wallachia (1310) and Moldavia (around 1352) emerge to fight the threat of the Ottoman Empire. Both territories inhabited by Romanians have achieved the independence from the Hungarian Crown after military conflicts (Battle of Posada, 1330) or social conflicts (Moldavian boyars revolt against Hungary, 1364), these historical events being initiated by Basarab I of Wallachia (1310–1352) and Bogdan I of Moldavia (1359–1365). Ștefănescu, Ștefan (1991). *Istoria medie a României*. I. Bucharest. p. 114. Predescu, Lucian (1940). "Enciclopedia Cugetarea". *Enciclopedia Cugetarea*. Moldavia, Wallachia and Principality of Transylvania (1570–1711) Transylvania were briefly united under the rule of Mihai Viteazul Michael the Brave in 1600. By 1541, the entire Balkan peninsula and most of Hungary

became Ottoman provinces. Moldavia, Wallachia, and Transylvania were under Ottoman suzerainty, preserving partial-full internal autonomy until middle of the 19th century (Transylvania to 1699). During this period, the Romanian lands were characterised by the slow disappearance of the feudalismfeudal system. A few rulers of present-day Romanian territories distinguished themselves: these rulers include Stephen III of MoldaviaStephen the Great, Vasile Lupu, and Dimitrie Cantemir in Moldavia; Matei Basarab, Vlad III the Impaler, and Constantin Brâncoveanu in Wallachia; and John Hunyadi (Ioannes Corvinus) and Gabriel Bethlen in Principality of Transylvania (1570–1711)Transylvania.István, Vásáry. "Cumans and Tatars". cambridge.org. . Retrieved 2009-09-07.In 1600, the principalities of Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania were simultaneously headed by the prince of WallachiaWallachian prince Mihai ViteazulMichael the Brave (Mihai Viteazul), but the chance for a unity dissolved after Mihai was assassinated only one year later. After his death, as vassal tributary states, Moldavia and Wallachia had complete internal autonomy and external independence, which were finally lost in the 18th century. In 1699, Transylvania became a territory of the Habsburg MonarchyHabsburgs' Austrian empire following the Austrian victory over the Turks in the Great Turkish War. The Habsburgs in turn expanded their empire in 1718 to include an important part of Wallachia, called Oltenia (which was returned only in 1739), and in 1775 over the north-western part of Moldavia, later called Bukovina. The eastern half of the Moldavian principality (called Bessarabia) was occupied in 1812 by Russian EmpireRussia.Independence and monarchyTerritorial changes of Romania since 1859 until presentDuring the period of Austro-Hungarian EmpireAustro-Hungarian rule in Transylvania and Ottoman suzerainty over Wallachia and Moldavia, most Romanians were in the situation of being *Supplex Libellus Valachorum*second-class citizens or even non-citizens "The Magyarization Process". GenealogyRO Group. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. in a territory where they formed the majority of the population.Kocsis, Karoly; Kocsis-Hodosi, Eszter (1999). Ethnic structure of the population on the present territory of Transylvania (1880–1992). Archived from the original on 2008-02-22. . Retrieved 2008-08-31.Kocsis, Karoly; Kocsis-Hodosi, Eszter (2001). Ethnic Geography of the Hungarian Minorities in the Carpathian Basin. Simon Publications. p. 102. ISBN 1-931313-75-X. In some Transylvanian cities, such as Braşov or Timișoara, Romanians were not even allowed to reside within the city walls.Prodan, David (1971). *Supplex Libellus Valachorum= Or, The Politicle Struggle of Romanians in Transylvania During the 18th Century*. Bucharest: Academy of Social Republic of Romania.Following the Wallachian uprising of 1821, more uprisings followed in 1848 in Wallachian Revolution of 1848Wallachia as well as Moldavian Revolution of 1848Moldavia. The flag adopted for Wallachia by the revolutionaries was a blue-yellow-red tricolour (with blue above, in line with the meaning "Liberty, Justice, Fraternity"),Gazeta de Transilvania, year XI, no. 34 of 26 April 1848, p. 140. while Romanian students in Paris hailed the new government with the same flag "as a symbol of union between Moldavians and Muntenians".Dogaru (1978), p. 862.Căzănișteanu (1967), p. 36. This flag would later become the adopted as the flag of Romania. But after the failed Revolutions of 18481848 Revolution, the Great Powers did not support the Romanians' expressed desire to officially unite in a single state, which forced Romania to proceed alone against the Ottoman EmpireOttomans. The electors in both Moldavia and Wallachia chose in 1859 the same person –Alexandru Ioan Cuza– as Romanian heads of stateprince (Domnitor in Romanian languageRomanian).Bobango, Gerald J (1979). The emergence of the Romanian national State. New York: Boulder. ISBN 978-0-914710-51-6. Thus, Romania was created as a United Principalitiespersonal union, albeit without including Transylvania. There, the upper class and the aristocracy remained mainly Hungarian, even though the Romanians were by far the most numerous ethnic Transylvanian group and constituted the absolute majority.In a 1866 coup d'état, Alexandru Ioan CuzaCuza was exiled and replaced by Prince Karl of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who became known as Prince Carol of Romania. During the Russo-Turkish War, 1877-78Russo-Turkish War Romania fought on the Russian side, "San Stefano Preliminary Treaty" (in Russian). 1878. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. and in the Treaty of San Stefano and the Treaty of Berlin (1878)Treaty of Berlin, Romania was recognized as an Romanian War of Independenceindependent state by the Ottoman Empire and the Great Powers. The Treaty of Berlin, 1878 – Excerpts on the Balkans. Berlin: Fordham University. 13 July 1878. . Retrieved 2008-08-31.Patterson, Michelle (August 1996). "The Road to Romanian Independence" (– Scholar search). Canadian Journal of History. Archived from the original on 24 March 2008. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In

return, Romania ceded three southern districts of Bessarabia to Russia and acquired Dobruja. In 1881, the principality was raised to a monarchy kingdom and Prince Carol became King Carol I. The 1878–1914 period was one of Kingdom of Romania stability and progress for Romania. During the Second Balkan War, Romania joined Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey against Bulgaria, and in the peace Treaty of Bucharest (1913) Romania gained Southern Dobruja. Anderson, Frank Maloy; Hershey, Amos Shartle (1918). *Handbook for the Diplomatic History of Europe, Asia, and Africa 1870–1914*. Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office. World Wars and Greater Romania Romanian infantry on the Eastern Front (World War II) Eastern Front in 1943. The Second World War claimed the lives of over 370,000 Romanian soldiers. In August 1914, when World War I broke out, Romania declared Neutral country neutrality. Two years later, under pressure from the Allies, on 27 August 1916, Romania joined the Allies, declaring war on Austria-Hungary. For this action, under the terms of the Treaty of Bucharest (1916) secret military convention, Romania was promised support for its goal of national unity for all Romanian people. Horne, Charles F. (Horne). "Ion Bratianu's Declaration of War Delivered to the Austrian Minister in Romania on August 28, 1916". *Source Records of the Great War*. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. The Romanian Campaign (World War I) Romanian military campaign began disastrously for Romania as the Central Powers conquered two-thirds of the country within months. Nevertheless, Moldavia remained in Romanian hands and the invading forces were stopped in 1917. Total World War I casualties deaths from 1914 to 1918, military and civilian, within contemporary borders, were estimated at 748,000. Erlikman, Vadim (2004). *Poteri narodonaseleniia v XX veke : spravochnik*. Moscow. ISBN 5-93165-107-1. By the war's end, Austria-Hungary and the Russian Empire had collapsed and disintegrated; Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania proclaimed unions with the Kingdom of Romania in 1918. By the 1920 Treaty of Trianon, Hungary was forced to renounce in favour of Romania all the claims of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy over Transylvania. "Text of the Treaty of Trianon". *World War I Document Archive*. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. The union of Romania with Bukovina was ratified in 1919 in the Treaty of Saint Germain, Bernard Anthony Cook (2001). *Europe Since 1945: An Encyclopedia*. Taylor & Francis. p. 162. ISBN 0-8153-4057-5. and with Bessarabia in 1920 by the Treaty of Paris (1920) Treaty of Paris. Malbone W. Graham (October 1944). "The Legal Status of the Bukovina and Bessarabia". *The American Journal of International Law* (American Society of International Law) 38 (4): 667–673. doi:10.2307/2192802. JSTOR 2192802. The Romanian expression Greater Romania România Mare (literal translation "Great Romania", but more commonly rendered "Greater Romania"), generally refers to the Romanian state in the interwar period, and by extension, to the territory Romania covered at the time. Romania achieved at that time its greatest territorial extent (almost 300,000 km²/unknown operator: u'strong' sq mi), "Statul National Unitar (România Mare 1919–1940)" (in Romanian). *ici.ro*. Archived from the original on 2008-06-12. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. managing to unite essentially all of the territories inhabited by Romanians. During the Second World War, Romania tried again to remain neutral, but on 28 June 1940, it received a June 1940 Soviet Ultimatum Soviet ultimatum with an implied threat of invasion in the event of non-compliance. Ioan Scurtu, Theodora Stănescu-Stanciu, Georgiana Margareta Scurtu (2002) (in Romanian). *Istoria Românilor între anii 1918–1940*. University of Bucharest. Archived from the original on 2007-11-13. . Under Nazi and Soviet pressure, the Romanian administration and the army were forced to retreat from Bessarabia as well from northern Bukovina to avoid war. Nagy-Talavera, Nicolas M. (1970). *Green Shirts and Others: a History of Fascism in Hungary and Romania*. Hoover Institution Press. p. 305. ISBN 973-9432-11-5. This, in combination with other factors, prompted the government to join Axis power the Axis. Thereafter, southern Dobruja was ceded to Bulgaria, while Hungary received Northern Transylvania as result of an Axis arbitration. M. Broszat (1968). "Deutschland – Ungarn – Rumänien. Entwicklung und Grundfaktoren nationalsozialistischer Hegemonial- und Bündnispolitik 1938–1941" (in German). *Historische Zeitschrift* (206): 552–553. The authoritarian Carol II of Romania King Carol II abdicated in 1940, and succeeded by the National Legionary State, in which power was shared by Ion Antonescu and the Iron Guard. Within months, Antonescu had crushed the Iron Guard, and the subsequent year Romania entered the war on the side of the Axis powers. During the war, Romania was the most important source of oil for Nazi Germany, "The Biggest Mistakes In World War 2: Ploesti – the most important target". . Retrieved 2008-08-31. which attracted Operation Tidal Wave multiple bombing raids by the Allies. By

means of the Operation Barbarossa Axis invasion of the Soviet Union, Romania recovered Bessarabia and northern Bukovina from Soviet Russia, under the leadership of general, later marshal, Ion Antonescu. The Antonescu regime played a major role in the The Holocaust Holocaust, Note: follow the World War II link: Ronald D. Bachman, ed. (2005-11-09). Romania: World War II (Report) (2 ed.). Washington D.C.: Library of Congress. Federal Research Division. OCLC DR205.R613 1990. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. following to a lesser extent the Nazi policy of oppression and massacre of the Jews, and Romani people Romma, primarily in the Eastern territories Romania recovered or occupied from the Soviet Union (Transnistria (World War II) Transnistria) and in Moldavia. Raul Hilberg Raul Hilberg; Yad Vashem (2004). "Executive Summary: Historical Findings and Recommendations" (PDF). International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. "no country, besides Germany, was involved in massacres of Jews on such a scale." History of the Jews in Romania Jewish holocaust victims totaled at least 280,000 and 11,000 Romani people Romani victims. Associated, The (17 April 2012). "Study: More than 280,000 Jews killed in Romania in WWII - Haaretz Daily Newspaper | Israel News". Haaretz.com. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. In August 1944, Marshal Antonescu was toppled and arrested by King Michael I of Romania and the country changed sides and joined the Allies of World War II Allies. But its role in the defeat of Nazi Germany was not recognized by the Paris Peace Treaties, 1947 Paris Peace Conference of 1947; Eugen Tomiuc (6 May 2005). "World War II – 60 Years After: Former Romanian Monarch Remembers Decision To Switch Sides". Archived from the original on 2007-09-30. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. even though the Romanian Army had suffered 170,000 casualties after switching sides. Michael Clodfelter (2002). Warfare and Armed Conflicts- A Statistical Reference to Casualty and Other Figures, 1500–2000 (2 ed.). Jefferson, NC: McFarland. p. 582. ISBN 0-7864-1204-6. Communism Nicolae Ceaușescu condemning the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in front of a crowd in 1968. Despite initial popularity, the Ceaușescu regime soon became one of the most repressive and autocratic in Europe. During the Soviet occupation of Romania, the Romanian Communist Party Communist-dominated government called Romanian general election, 1946 new elections, which were won with 80% of the vote. Giurescu, "«Alegeri» după model sovietic", p.17 (citing Berry), 18 (citing Berry and note); Macuc, p.40; Tismăneanu, p.113 They thus rapidly established themselves as the dominant political force. "Romania: Country studies – Chapter 1.7.1 "Petru Groza's Premiership"". Federal research Division, Library of Congress. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In 1947, the communism Communists forced Michael I of Romania King Michael I to abdicate and leave the country, and proclaimed Romania a people's republic. "Romania". CIA – The World Factbook. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. "Romania – Country Background and Profile". ed-u.com. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Romania remained under the direct Soviet occupation of Romania military occupation and SovRom economic control of the Soviet Union USSR until the late 1950s. During this period, Romania's vast natural resources were continuously drained by mixed Soviet-Romanian companies (SovRoms) set up for exploitative purposes. Rîjnoveanu, Carmen (2003). "Romania's Policy of Autonomy in the Context of the Sino-Soviet Conflict" (PDF). Czech Republic Military History Institute, Militärgeschichtliches Forschungsamt. p. 1. Archived from the original on 2008-06-24. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Roper, Stephen D. (2000). Romania: The Unfinished Revolution. London: Routledge. p. 18. ISBN 90-5823-027-9. Adrian Cioroianu Cioroianu, Adrian (2005) (in Romanian). On the Shoulders of Marx. An Incursion into the History of Romanian Communism. Bucharest: Editura Curtea Veche. pp. 68–73. ISBN 973-669-175-6. In 1948, the state began to nationalization in Romania nationalize private firms, and to collectivization in Romania collectivize agriculture the following year. Stan Stoica (2007) (in Romanian). Dicționar de Istorie a României. Bucharest: Editura Merona. pp. 77–78; 233–34. ISBN 973-7839-21-8. From the late 1940s to the early 1960s, the communism Communist government established a reign of terror, carried out mainly through the Securitate (the secret police). During this time they launched several campaigns to eliminate "Enemy of the state enemies of the state", in which numerous individuals were killed or imprisoned for political or economic reasons. Caraza, Grigore (2004) (in Romanian). Aiud însângerat. Chapter IV. Editura Vremea XXI. ISBN 973-645-050-3. Punishment included deportation, internal exile, and internment in forced labour camps and prisons; dissent was vigorously suppressed. Cicerone Ionițoiu (2000) (in Romanian). Victimele terorii comuniste. Arestați, torturați, înțemnițați, uciși. Dicționar. Bucharest: Editura Mașina de scris. ISBN 973-99994-2-5.

Nevertheless, Romanian anti-communist resistance movementRomanian armed opposition to communist rule was one of the longest-lasting in the Eastern Bloc.Consiliul National pentru Studierea Ahivelor Securității, *Bande, bandiți și eroi. Grupurile de rezistență și Securitatea (1948–1968)*, Editura Enciclopedica, București, 2003In 1965, Nicolae Ceaușescu came to power and started to pursue independent policies, such as being the only Warsaw Pact country to condemn the Soviet-led 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia, maintaining diplomatic relations with Israel after the Six-Day War of 1967 and establishing diplomatic relations with Federal Republic of GermanyWest Germany the same year, economic links having been set up in 1963. "Romania: Soviet Union and Eastern Europe". Country Studies.us. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Also, close ties with the Arab countries (and the PLO) allowed Romania to play a key role in the Israel–Egypt and Israel–PLO peace processes. "Middle East policies in Communist Romania". Country Studies.us. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. But as Romania's foreign debt sharply increased between 1977 and 1981 (from 3 to 10 billion US dollars),Deletant, Dennis. "New Evidence on Romania and the Warsaw Pact, 1955–1989". Cold War International History Project e-Dossier Series. . the influence of international financial organisations such as the IMF or the World Bank grew, conflicting with Nicolae Ceaușescu's autocracyautocratic policies. He eventually initiated a project of total reimbursement of the foreign debt by imposing policies that impoverished Romanians and exhausted the Romanian economy, while also greatly extending the authority of the Securitatepolice state, and imposing a cult of personality. Although these led to a dramatic decrease in Ceaușescu's popularity and culminated in his overthrow and execution in the bloody Romanian Revolution of 1989, by that time Romania's foreign debt was almost completely paid-off. A 2006 Presidential Commission for the Study of the Communist Dictatorship in Romania estimated that the number of direct victims of communist repression at two million people. This number does not include people who died in liberty as a result of their treatment in communist prisons, nor does it include people who died because of the dire economic circumstances in which the country found itself. (in Romanian) *Recensământul populației concentraționare din România în anii 1945–1989* (Report). Sighet: Centrul Internațional de Studii asupra Comunismului. 2004. *Raportul Comisiei Prezidențiale pentru Analiza Dictaturii Comuniste din România* (Report). Comisia Prezidențială pentru Analiza Dictaturii Comuniste din România. 2006-12-15. pp. 215–217.Present-day democracyAnti-communist fighters during the 1989 Romanian Revolution. Romania was the only Eastern Bloc country to violently overthrow its Communist government.Romania joined the European Union in 2007 and signed the Lisbon Treaty.After the revolution, the National Salvation Front (Romania)National Salvation Front (NSF), led by Ion Iliescu, took partial multi-party democratic and free market measures.Carothers, Thomas. "Romania: The Political Background" (PDF). . Retrieved 2008-08-31. ""This seven-year period can be characterized as a gradualistic, often ambiguous transition away from communist rule towards democracy.""Hellman, Joel (January 1998). "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist". *Transitions World Politics* 50 (2): 203–234. Several major political parties of the pre-war era were resurrected. After major political rallies, in April 1990, a sit-in protest contesting the results of the recently held parliamentary elections began in University Square, Bucharest, accusing the NSF of being made up of former Communists and members of the Securitate. The protesters called the election undemocratic and asked for the exclusion from political life of former high-ranking Communist Party members, such as Iliescu himself. The protest rapidly grew to become what president Iliescu called the Golaniad. The peaceful demonstrations degenerated into violence, prompting the intervention of coal miners, summoned by Iliescu in June 1990, from the Jiu RiverJiu Valley. This episode has been documented widely by both local "Institutul de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului și Memoria Exilului Românesc". *Mineriade.iiccr.ro*. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. and foreign media, "Institutul de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului și Memoria Exilului Românesc". *Mineriade.iiccr.ro*. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. and is remembered as the June 1990 Mineriad.Bohlen, Celestine (1990-06-15). "Evolution in Europe; Romanian miners invade Bucharest". *The New York Times*. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. "Institutul de Investigare a Crimelor Comunismului și Memoria Exilului Românesc". *Mineriade.iiccr.ro*. . Retrieved 2011-03-14.The subsequent disintegration of the Front produced several political parties including the Social Democratic Party (Romania)Social Democratic Party, the Democratic Party (Romania)Democratic Party and the List of political parties in Romania#Other post-1989 partiesAlliance for Romania. The former governed Romania from 1990 until 1996

through several coalitions and governments with Ion Iliescu as head of state. Since then there have been several democratic changes of government: in 1996 the democratic-liberal opposition and its leader Emil Constantinescu acceded to power; in 2000 the Social Democrats returned to power, with Iliescu once again president; and in 2004 Traian Băsescu was elected president, with an electoral coalition called Justice and TruthJustice and Truth Alliance. Băsescu was narrowly re-elected in 2009. Presa internationala despre alegerile din Romania: Traian Basescu a castigat la limita; Romanii au mici sperante sa se dezghete ajutorul de la FMI – International. HotNews.ro. Retrieved on 2010-08-21. Post–Cold War Romania developed closer ties with Western Europe, eventually joining NATO in 2004, and hosting the 2008 Bucharest summit2008 summit in Bucharest. "NATO update: NATO welcomes seven new members". NATO. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. The country applied in June 1993 for membership in the European Union and became an Associated State of the EU in 1995, an Acceding Country in 2004, and a member on 1 January 2007. "EU approves Bulgaria and Romania". BBC News. 2006-09-26. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Following the free travel agreement and politics of the post–Cold War period, as well as hardship of the life in the 1990s economic depression, Romania has an increasingly large Romanian diasporadiaspora, estimated at over 2 million people. The main emigration targets are Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States. "Romania". focus-migration.de. . Retrieved 2008-08-28. During the 2000s, Romania enjoyed one of the highest economic growth rates in Europe and has been referred to as "the Tiger of Eastern Europe." "Adevarul". Adevarul.ro. . Retrieved 2010-09-25. This has been accompanied by a significant improvement in human development. Human Development Report 2009 – Country Fact Sheets – Romania. Hdrstats.undp.org. Retrieved on 2010-08-21. The country has been successful in reducing internal poverty and establishing a functional democracy. Tracking the Millennium Development Goal. MDG Monitor. Retrieved on 2010-08-21. However, Romania's development suffered a major setback during the late-2000s recession as a large gross domestic product contraction and a large budget deficit in 2009 led to Romania borrowing heavily, Joe Parkinson (4 December 2009). "Romania Faces Crucial Vote". Wall Street Journal. . eventually becoming the largest debtor to the International Monetary Fund in 2010. Ukraine is now second largest International Monetary Fund debtor, Kyiv Post (10 August 2010) Worsening economic conditions led to popular unrest and eventually to a 2012 Romanian political crisispolitical crisis in 2012. Romania still faces issues related to infrastructure, Romania's Infrastructure and International Transport Links. Romania Central. Retrieved on 2010-08-21. medical services, Romania, world's 53rd country in quality of life index « Denisa Morariu. Denisamorariu.wordpress.com (8 January 2010). Retrieved on 2010-08-21. education, Sistemul de invatamant distrus de lipsa reformelor – Cluj. citynews.ro. Retrieved on 2010-08-21. and corruption. D+C 2010/03 – Focus – Roos: In Romania and Bulgaria, civil-society organisations are demanding rule of law – Development and Cooperation – International Journal. Inwent.org. Retrieved on 2010-08-21. GeographyGeneral map of RomaniaWith a surface area of 238391 square kilometres (unknown operator: u'strong' sq mi), Romania is the largest country in southeastern Europe and the List of European countries in order of geographical areatwelfth-largest in Europe. "Geography, Meteorology and Environment" (in Romanian). Romanian Statistical Yearbook. 2004. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. It lies between latitudes 43rd parallel north43° and 49th parallel north49° N, and longitudes 20th meridian east20° and 30th meridian east30° E. Romania's terrain is distributed roughly equally between mountainous, hilly and lowland territories. The Carpathian Mountains dominate the centre of Romania, with List of mountain peaks in Romania14 mountain ranges reaching above 2000 m/unknown operator: u'strong' ft, and the highest point at Moldoveanu Peak (2544 m/unknown operator: u'strong' ft). These are surrounded by the Moldavian PlateauMoldavian and Transylvanian PlateauTransylvanian plateaus and Pannonian PlainPannonian and Wallachian PlainWallachian plains. Romania's geographical diversity has led to an accompanying diversity of flora and fauna. A large part of Romania's border with Serbia and Bulgaria is formed by the Danube. The Prut River, one of its major tributarytributaries, forms the border with the Republic of Moldova. The Danube flows into the Black Sea within Romania's territory forming the Danube Delta, the second largest and best preserved delta in Europe, and also a biosphere reserve and a biodiversity World Heritage Site. "Danube Delta". UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. . Retrieved 2008-01-09. Other major rivers are the Siret RiverSiret (596 km), the Olt RiverOlt (614 km), the Prut RiverPrut (742 km), the Someş RiverSomeş (388 km), and the Mureş RiverMureş (761 km). Lakes and lake

complexes have a low share throughout Romania, occupying only 1.1% of total land area. The largest lake complex in size is Lake Razelm-Razelm-Sinoe (731 km²), located on the Black Sea Seaside resortseaside. Glacial lakes exist in the Făgăraș Mountains, a result of quaternary glaciation, of which the largest are: AvrigLake Avrig (14,700 m²), Bălea Lake (46,500 m²), lakeCapra Lake (18,000 m²), etc. Other notable lakes are Lake Sfânta Ana, the only volcanic lake in Romania, and Red Lake (Romania)Red Lake, a natural dam lake, both situated in Harghita County. "Lacuri Romania, Sfanta Ana, Lacul Rosu, Bălea Lac: Lacuri Romania". Inromania.info. 2010-07-29. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.

ClimateSatellite image of Romania in December, showing most of its territory under snow Owing to its distance from the open sea and position on the southeastern portion of the European continent, Romania has a climate that is transitional between temperate climatetemperature and continental climatecontinental, with four distinct seasons. The average annual temperature is 11 °C (unknown operator: u'strong' °F) in the south and 8 °C (unknown operator: u'strong' °F) in the north. "Romania: Climate". U.S. Library of Congress. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. The Temperature extremesextreme recorded temperatures were 44.5 °C (unknown operator: u'strong' °F) at Ion Sion in 1951 and −38.5 °C (−unknown operator: u'strong' °F) at Bod, BraşovBod in 1942. "Romania: climate". Climate. . Retrieved 2008-01-10.

Spring is pleasant with cool mornings and nights and warm days. Summers are generally very warm to hot, with summer (June to August) average maximum temperatures in Bucharest rising to 28 °C (unknown operator: u'strong' °F), and temperatures over 35 °C (unknown operator: u'strong' °F) fairly common in the lower-lying areas of the country. Minima in Bucharest and other lower-lying areas are around 16 °C (unknown operator: u'strong' °F). Autumn is dry and cool, with fields and trees producing colorful foliage. Winters can be cold, with average maxima even in lower-lying areas reaching no more than 2 °C (unknown operator: u'strong' °F) and below −15 °C (unknown operator: u'sstrong' °F) in the highest mountains. "Permafrost Monitoring and Prediction in Southern Carpathians, Romania". CliC International Project Office (CIPO). 2004-12-22. . Retrieved 2008-08-31.

Precipitation is average with over 750 mm (unknown operator: u'strong' in) per year only on the highest western mountains—much of it falling as snow, which allows for an extensive skiing industry. In the south-central parts of the country (around Bucharest) the level of precipitation drops to around 600 mm (unknown operator: u'strong' in), "The 2004 Yearbook" (in Romanian) (PDF). Romanian National Institute of Statistics. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. while in the Danube Delta, rainfall levels are very low, and average only around 370 mm. Because of Romania's geographic location, respectively the regional orographic peculiarities, there exists a varied range of local winds. Humid winds from the northwest are most common, but often the drier winds from the northeast are strongest. A hot southwesterly wind, the austru (cf. lat. Anemoi#AusterAuster), blows over western Romania, particularly in summer. In winter, cold and dense air masses encircle the eastern portions of the country, with the cold northeasterly known as the crivăţ blowing in from the Russian Plain, and oceanic air masses from the Azores, in the west, bring rain and mitigate the severity of the cold. Other wind types present locally are nemirul, black wind, foehn, băltăreţul, West windzephyr, cosava etc. Romania enjoys four seasons, though there is a rapid transition from winter to summer. Autumn is frequently longer, with dry warm weather from September to late November. "Vanturile din Romania". Meteo Romania. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.

Natural environmentA high percentage (47% of the land area) of the country is covered with natural and semi-natural ecosystems. "Romania's Biodiversity". Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection of Romania. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. Since almost half of all forests in Romania (13% of the country) have been managed for watershed conservation rather than production, Romania has one of the largest areas of undisturbed forest in Europe. The integrity of Romanian forest ecosystems is indicated by the presence of the full range of European forest fauna, including 60% and 40% of all European brown bears and wolves, respectively. "State of the Environment in Romania 1998: Biodiversity". Romanian Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection. Archived from the original on 15 November 2007. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. There are also almost 400 unique species of mammals (of which Carpathian chamois are best known), birds, reptiles and amphibians in Romania. "EarthTrends:Biodiversity and Protected Areas -Romania" (PDF). . Retrieved 2008-01-10. The fauna consists of 33,792 species of animals, 33,085 invertebrate and 707 vertebrate. "Flora si fauna salbatica" (in Romanian). enrin.grida.no. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. Some 3,700 plant species have been identified in the country, from which to date 23 have been declared natural monuments, 74 missing, 39 endangered, 171

vulnerable and 1,253 rare. The three major vegetation areas in Romania are the alpine zone, the forest zone and the steppe zone. The vegetation is distributed in a storied manner in accordance with the characteristics of soil and climate and includes various species of oaks, sycamores, beeches, spruces, firs, willows, poplars, meadows, and pines. "Capitolul 12: Relieful, apele, clima, vegetatia, fauna, ariile protejate" (in Romanian). Aproape totul despre România. Radio Romania International. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. "Flora si fauna Romaniei" (in Romanian). edusoft.ro. EduSoft. . Retrieved 2010-07-18. There are almost 10000 km² (unknown operator: u'strong' sq mi) (about 5% of the total area) of protected areas in Romania covering 13 national parks and three biosphere reserves: the Danube Delta, Retezat National Park, and Rodna Mountains Rodna National Park. "Protected Areas in Romania". Romanian Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection. Archived from the original on 17 November 2007. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. The Danube Delta Reserve Biosphere is the largest and least damaged wetland complex in Europe, covering a total area of 5800 km² (unknown operator: u'strong' sq mi). "Danube Delta Reserve Biosphere". Romanian Ministry of Waters, Forests and Environmental Protection. Archived from the original on 26 April 2005. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. The significance of the biodiversity of the Danube Delta has been internationally recognised. It was declared a Biosphere Reserve in September 1990, a Ramsar site in May 1991, and over 50% of its area was placed on the World Heritage List in December 1991. "Danube Delta". UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. Within its boundaries lies one of the most extensive reed bed systems in the world. "NHK World Heritage 100 Series". UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. Administrative divisions Romania is divided into 41 Counties of Romania counties and the municipality of Bucharest. Each county is administered by a county council, responsible for local affairs, as well as a Prefect (Romania) prefect responsible for the administration of national affairs at the county level. The prefect is appointed by the central government but cannot be a member of any political party. "Geografia Romaniei" (in Romanian). descopera.net. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. Each county is further subdivided into cities of Romania cities and Communes of Romania communes, which have their own mayor and local council. There are a total of 319 cities in Romania cities and 2,686 Communes of Romania communes in Romania. (in ro) (PDF) Administrative Organisation of Romanian Territory, on December 31, 2005 (Report). Romanian National Institute of Statistics. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. A total of 103 of the larger cities have Municipalities of Romania municipality statuses, which gives them greater administrative power over local affairs. The municipality of Bucharest is a special case as it enjoys a status on par to that of a county. It is further divided into six sectors of Bucharest sectors and has a prefect, a general mayor, and a general city council. The NUTS-3 (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics) level divisions of European Union reflect Romania's administrative-territorial structure, and correspond to the 41 counties plus Bucharest. "Hierarchical list of the Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics – NUTS and the Statistical regions of Europe". Archived from the original on 2008-01-18. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. The cities and communes correspond to the NUTS-5 level divisions, but there are no current NUTS-4 level divisions. The NUTS-1 (four macroregions of Romania macroregions) and NUTS-2 "LEGE nr. 151 din 15 iulie 1998" (in Romanian). . Retrieved 2012-07-01. (eight Development regions of Romania development regions) divisions exist but have no administrative capacity, and are instead used for coordinating regional development projects and statistical purposes . Romanian Counties Alba County ABArad County ARArgeş County AGBacău County BCBihor County BHBistriţa-Năsăud County BNBotoşani County BTBraşov County BVBrăila County BRBuzău County BZCaraş-Severin County CSCălăraşi County CLCluj County CJConstanţa County CTCovasna County CVDâmboviţa County DBDolj County DJGalaţi County GLGiurgiu County GRGorj County GJHarghita County HRHunedoara County HDIalomiţa County ILIaşi County ISIlfov County IFMaramureş County MMEhedinţi County MHMureş County MSNeamţ County NTOlt County OTPrahova County PHSatu Mare County SMSălaj County SJSibiu County SBSuceava County SVTeleorman County TRTimiş County TMTulcea County TLVaslui County VSVâlcea County VLVrancea County VNBucharest BD

Development regions of Romania

Development region	Area (Square kilometre km ²)	Population (2004)	List of cities and towns in Romania
Most populous urban center			
Nord-Est (development region)	36,850	3,743,532	Iaşi (402,786)
Vest (development region)	32,028	1,958,648	Timișoara (367,347)
Nord-Vest (development region)	34,159	2,749,958	Cluj-Napoca (379,705)
Centru (development region)			

region)Center34,082 2,540,480 Braşov (402,041) Sud-Est (development region)Southeast35,762 2,865,024 Constanţa (446,000) Sud (development region)South34,489 3,379,406 Ploieşti (300,358) Bucharest-Ilfov (development region)Bucharest-Ilfov1,811 2,492,495 Bucharest (2,192,372) Sud-Vest (development region)Southwest29,212 2,334,453 Craiova (333,834) Romania238,391 22,063,996Bucharest (2,192,372)PoliticsGovernmentLogo of the Government of RomaniaThe Constitution of Romania is based on the Constitution of FranceConstitution of France's Fifth Republic Romania. 2 (48 ed.). London and New York: Routledge. 2007. pp. 3734–3759. ISBN 978-1-85743-412-5. and was approved in a national referendum on 8 December 1991. A plebiscite held in October 2003 approved 79 amendments to the Constitution, bringing it into conformity with European Union legislation. The country is governed on the basis of multi-party democratic system and of the segregation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers. Romania is a semi-presidential republic where executive functions are held by both Government of Romaniagovernment and the President of Romaniaipresident. The president is elected by popular vote for a maximum of two terms, and since the amendments in 2003, each term lasts five years. He appoints the prime minister, who in turn appoints the Romanian CabinetCouncil of Ministers (based at Victoria Palace). The legislative branch of the government, collectively known as the Parliament of RomaniaParliament (residing at the Palace of the Parliament), consists of Bicameralismtwo chambers – the Senate of RomaniaSenate with 140 members, and the Chamber of Deputies of RomaniaChamber of Deputies with 346 members. The members of both chambers are elected every four years by simple

plurality.[<http://www.antena3.ro/politica/se-schimba-sistemul-de-vot-deputatii-au-adoptat-noua-lege-electoral-propusa-de-usl-1680>]

Se schimbă sistemul de vot. Deputații au adoptat noua Lege Electorală propusă de USLTraian Băsescu, President of RomaniaThe justice system is independent of the other branches of government, and is made up of a hierarchical system of courts culminating in the High Court of Cassation and Justice, which is the supreme court of Romania. "Presentation". High Court of Cassation and Justice —Romania. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. There are also courts of appeal, county courts and local courts. The Romanian judicial system is strongly influenced by the French lawFrench model, "Romanian Legal system". CIA Factbook. 2000. . Retrieved 2008-01-11. considering that it is based on Civil law (legal system)civil law and is inquisitorial systeminquisitorial in nature. The Curtea ConstituționalăConstitutional Court (Curtea Constituțională) is responsible for judging the compliance of laws and other state regulations to the Romanian Constitution, which is the fundamental law of the country. The constitution, which was introduced in 1991, can be amended by only a public referendum, the last of which took place in 2003. Since this amendment, the court's decisions cannot be overruled by any majority of the parliament.The country's entry into the European Union in 2007Bos, Stefan (1 January 2007). "Bulgaria, Romania Join European Union". VOA News (Voice of America). . Retrieved 2 January 2009. has been a significant influence on its domestic policy. As part of the process, Romania has instituted reforms including judicial reform, increased judicial cooperation with other member states, and measures to combat corruption. Nevertheless, in 2006 Brussels report, Romania and Bulgaria were described as the two most corrupt countries in the EU, "Romania will be EU's most corrupt new member". Archived from the original on 2007-11-18. . Retrieved 2008-01-11. and Romania was ranked, together with Bulgaria and Greece, as the most corrupt EU country by Transparency International in 2009.Foreign relations2008 NATO Summit in Bucharest.Since December 1989, Romania has pursued a policy of strengthening relations with the West in general, more specifically with the United States and the European Union. It joined the NATONorth Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on 29 March 2004, the European Union (EU) on 1 January 2007, while it had joined the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in 1972, and is a founding member of the World Trade Organization. "Understanding the WTO – members". WTO. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.The current government has stated its goal of strengthening ties with and helping other Eastern European countries (in particular Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia (country)Georgia) with the process of integration with the West. "Foreign Policy Priorities of Romania for 2008" (in Romanian). Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. . Retrieved 2008-08-28. Romania has also made clear since the late 1990s that it supports NATO and EU membership for the democratic former Soviet republics in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Romania also declared its public support for Turkey,

and Croatia joining the European Union. With Turkey, Romania shares a privileged economic relation. "Turkey & Romania hand in hand for a better tomorrow." (PDF). The New Anatolian, 1 February 2006. . Because it has a large Hungarian minority, Romania has also developed strong relations with Hungary. Romania opted on 1 January 2007, to adhere the Schengen Area, an area of free movement in Europe that comprises the territories of twenty-five European countries. Romania's bid to join the Schengen Area was approved by the European Parliament in June 2011 and is currently being considered by the Council of the European Union Council of Ministers. Prospective implementation date is May 2012, following that to Romania will be conferred the relapse to international travel with border controls for travellers circulating in and out of the area, but with no internal border controls. "Headline: Meeting with the Hungarian Prime Minister, Ferenc Gyurcsány" (Press release). Government of Romania. 2006-03-24. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In December 2005, President Traian Băsescu and United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice signed an agreement that would allow a U.S. military presence at several Romanian facilities primarily in the eastern part of the country. "Background Note: Romania – U.S.-Romanian Relations". U.S. Department of State. . In May 2009, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton declared that "Romania is one of the most trustworthy and respectable partners of the USA" during a visit of the Romanian foreign minister. Romanian-Moldovan relations Relations with Moldova are a special case, considering that the two countries practically share the same language, and a History of Moldavia fairly common historical background. A movement for unification of Romania and Moldova appeared in the early 1990s after both countries achieved emancipation from communist rule, Gabriel Andreescu, Valentin Stan, Renate Weber (1994-10-30). "Romania'S Relations With The Republic Of Moldova". International Studies (Centre for International Studies). . Retrieved 2008-08-31. but lost ground in the mid-1990s when a new Moldovan government pursued an agenda towards preserving a Moldovan republic independent of Romania. Stefan Ihrig. "Rediscovering History, Rediscovering Ultimate Truth" (PDF). . Retrieved 2008-09-17. Romania remains interested in Moldovan affairs and has officially rejected the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, but the two countries have been unable so far to reach agreement on a basic bilateral treaty. "Moldova urging Romania to sign basic political treaty". Romania News Watch. 2007-12-16. . Retrieved 2008-08-28. After the 2009 Moldovan protests 2009 protests in Moldova and subsequent removal of Communists from power, relations between the two countries have improved considerably. "Moldova, Romania open new chapter in bilateral relations". People's Daily Online. 2010-04-29. . Retrieved 2011-08-11. On May 3, 2011, after the stabilisation of the Moldovan political situation, the Romanian prime - minister M.R. Ungureanu and the Moldovan premier Vladimir Filat held a joint government meeting in Iași, where they signed 8 bilateral strategic military and economic agreements. Military URO VAMTAC Military Parade on December 1, 2009 The Romanian Armed Forces consist of Romanian Land Forces Land, Romanian Air Force Air, and Romanian Naval Forces Naval Forces, and are led by a Commander-in-chief who is managed by the Ministry of Defense (Romania) Ministry of Defense. The President of Romania president is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces during wartime. Of the 90,000 men and women that comprise the Armed Forces, approximately 15,000 are civilians and 75,000 are military personnel—45,800 for land, 13,250 for air, 6,800 for naval forces, and 8,800 in other fields. "Press conference" (Press release). Ministry of National Defense of Romania. 2003-01-21. Archived from the original on 2008-04-03. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. The total defence spending in 2007 accounted for 2.05% of total national GDP, or approximately US\$2.9 billion (List of countries and federations by military expenditures 39th in the world), and a total of about 11 billion were spent between 2006 and 2011 for modernization and acquisition of new equipment. "MoND Budget as of 2007" (in Romanian). Ziarul Financiar. 2006-10-30. Archived from the original on 22 April 2008. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. The Land Forces have overhauled their equipment in the past few years, and are actively participating in the War in Afghanistan (2001–present) War in Afghanistan. The Air Force currently operates modernized Soviet MiG-21 LanceR fighters which are due to be replaced by new fighters by 2013, according to present plans. However due to poor economical conditions this may change. "Comunicate de presă". Mapn.ro. . Retrieved 2010-09-28. The Air Force purchased seven new C-27J Spartan tactical airlift to replace the bulk of the old transport force. "PICTURES: Romania accepts first C-27J Spartans-12/04/2010-London". Flightglobal.com. . Retrieved 2010-09-28. Two modernized Type 22 frigates were acquired by the Naval Forces in 2004 from the Royal

Navy, and a further four modern missile corvettes have been commissioned by 2010."Spartan Order". Aviation Week & Space Technology. 2006-12-11.Romanian troops participated in the Post-invasion Iraq (2003 to present)occupation of Iraq, reaching a peak of 730 soldiers before being slowly drawn down to 350 soldiers. Romania terminated its mission in Iraq and withdrew its last troops on 24 July 2009, among the last countries to do so. Romania currently has some 1,900 troops deployed in Afghanistan.YAHOO News, WHITE HOUSE NOTEBOOK: Obama in PragueSocial welfare The unemployment rate in Romania has been relatively low in recent years and stand at around 5% in 2011. "Report for Selected Countries and Subjects". Imf.org. 14 September 2006. . Retrieved 24 April 2012.In the late 2000s nearly 10 percent of the population was in absolute poverty "Rumänien. Sedan finansskrisen har barnfattigdomen ökat igen | Socionomen". Socionomen.nu. 8 November 2010. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. and of these, 90% live in rural areas. A set of reforming programs has been started in 1999 introducing private health insurance. The pension system was also reformed. "Only three other countries in the EU plan to increase retirement age above 65". Barcelonareporter.com. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. "country profiles". Pension Funds Online. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. "Romanian Parliament committee sets retirement age at 60 for women, 64 for men | Daily news in English from Romania". Romania-Insider.com. 23 November 2010. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. The state-run health care system is free, but suffers from neglect and has deteriorated in recent years due to lack of funding and underpaid staff. In many cases, the patients are bribing the clinic or hospital staff to get better treatment. There is evidence to suggest that a patient's wealth plays an important role in how they receive medical treatment. "Utrikesdepartementet" (PDF). . Retrieved 24 April 2012.By the first quarter of 2011 the average monthly household income is 2,318 Romanian leulei (equivalent to approximately \$862). The difference between countryside and urban area may vary; the income is 36 per-cent higher in the urban area than in the countryside.http://www.atkearney.ro/images/romania/pdf/Romanian_households_September_2011.pdfThe average monthly pension in Romania in 2010 was 734 lei, or €170. "Map of the Romanian retirees". Econtext.ro. . Retrieved 2012-04-29. The current low average retirement age (55 years for men and 57 years for women) will be gradually increased until 2014 to 60 years for women and 65 years for men. "The retirement age of Romanians is increasing; see its evolution". Realitatea.net. 2010-02-18. . Retrieved 2012-04-29.Many of the Roma (Romani subgroup)Romanian Romani people have no identity cards Gypsies and speculations related to their real number at the 2011 census and are therefore excluded from the social benefit systems, Craiova:gypsies who want social welfare, asked to get ID schools and health care. Romani communityEconomyFurther information: List of Romanian companiesRomania's Nominal GDP per capita per county in 2012 Romania's Net Salary per county in 2012 With a List of countries by GDPGDP of around \$267 billion and a List of countries by GDP per capita (PPP)GDP per capita (purchasing power parityPPP) of \$12,476 for the year 2011, Romania is an upper-middle income country economy "Country Classification Groups". World Bank. 2005. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. and has been part of the European Union since 1 January 2007. After the Communist RomaniaCommunist regime was Romanian Revolution of 1989overthrown in late 1989, the country experienced a decade of economic instability and decline, led in part by an obsolete industrial base and a lack of structural reform. From 2000 onwards, however, the Romanian economy was transformed into one of relative macroeconomic stability, characterised by high growth, low unemployment and declining inflation. In 2006, according to the National Institute of Statistics (Romania)Romanian Statistics Office, GDP growth in real terms was recorded at 7.7%, one of the highest rates in Europe. "GDP in 2006" (in Romanian) (PDF). Romanian National Institute of Statistics. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. Growth dampened to 6.1% in 2007, "World Bank: In 2008 Romania will have an economic growth of 5.9%" (in Romanian). Archived from the original on 2008-03-13. . Retrieved 2008-01-13. but was expected to exceed 8% in 2008 because of a high production forecast in agriculture (30–50% higher than in 2007). The GDP grew by 8.9% in the first nine months of 2008, but growth fell to 2.9% in the fourth quarter and stood at 7.1% for the whole 2008 because of the Global financial crisis of 2008–2009financial crisis. "Creșterea economică din 2008 a frânat brusc în T 4" (in Romanian). Curierul National. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. Thereafter, the country fell into a recession in 2009 and 2010, where the GDP contracted –7.1% and –1.3% respectively. It is estimated by the IMF that the GDP will grow again by 1.5% in 2011 and 4.4% in 2012. "IMF World Economic Outlook Database, April 2011 – Central and Eastern Europe". IMF. April

2011. . Retrieved 2011-04-27. Dacia Duster concept at the Geneva Motor Show, 2009. According to Eurostat data, the Romanian PPS GDP per capita stood at 46% of the EU average in 2010. "GDP per capita in PPS" (PDF). . Retrieved 2011-12-13. In March 2012, the net average monthly wage in the country was \$467 - one of the lowest in the EU. Inflation in 2010 was 6.1%. Unemployment in Romania was at 7.6% in 2010, which is very low compared to other middle-sized or large European countries such as Poland, France and Spain. General government gross debt is also comparatively low, at 34.8% of GDP. "Romania". CIA World Factbook. 2010. . Retrieved 2011-04-27. Exports have increased substantially in the past few years, with a 13% annual rise in exports in 2010. Romania's main exports are cars, software, clothing and textiles, industrial machinery, electrical and electronic equipment, metallurgic products, raw materials, military equipment, pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals, and agricultural products (fruits, vegetables, and flowers). Trade is mostly centred on the member states of the European Union, with Germany and Italy being the country's single largest trading partners. The current account balance in 2010 held a deficit of \$6.842 billion. After a series of privatisations and reforms in the late 1990s and 2000s (decade), government intervention in the Romanian economy is somewhat lower than in other European economies. "Index of Economic Freedom: Romania". heritage.org. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In 2005, the government replaced Romania's progressive tax system with a flat tax of 16% for both personal income and corporate profit, resulting in the country having one of the lowest fiscal burdens in the European Union, (PDF) Taxation trends in the EU (Report). Eurostat. 2007-06-26. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. a factor which has contributed to the growth of the private sector. The economy is predominantly based on services, which account for 51.2% of GDP, even though industry and agriculture also have significant contributions, making up 36% and 12.8% of GDP, respectively. Additionally, 29.6% of the Romanian population was employed in 2006 in agriculture and primary production, one of the highest rates in Europe. Since 2000, Romania has attracted increasing amounts of foreign investment, becoming the single largest investment destination in Southeastern and Central Europe. Foreign direct investment was valued at €8.3 billion in 2006. "Romania: FDI reached over EUR 8.3 bn". Archived from the original on 28 September 2007. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. According to a 2011 World Bank report, Romania currently ranks 72nd out of 175 economies in the ease of doing business, scoring lower than other countries in the region such as the Czech Republic. "Economy Ranking". Doing Business (World Bank). 2007. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Additionally, a study in 2006 judged it to be the world's second-fastest economic reformer (after Georgia (country) Georgia). Doing Business 2007 Report (Report). World Bank. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. During the first quarter of 2011 the average monthly household income was 2,318 Romanian lei, equating to approximately \$867 based on international exchange rates, and \$1170 based on purchasing power parity. "Implied PPP conversion rate for Romania". IMF. April 2008. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In 2009 the Romanian economy contracted as a result of the Financial crisis of 2007–2010 global economic downturn. Gross domestic product contracted 7.2% in the fourth quarter of 2009 from the same period a year earlier, Romania's GDP Falls 7.2% On Year In 2009, Country Still in Recession – Mediafax. Mediafax.ro. Retrieved on 2010-08-21. and the budget deficit for 2009 reached 7.2% of GDP. Nine O'Clock. Nineoclock.ro (13 November 2003). Retrieved on 2010-08-21. Industrial output growth however reached 6.9% year-on-year in December 2009, the highest in the EU-27. Romania reports highest December 2009 industrial output growth in EU27 | Financiarul. Financiarul.ro (15 February 2010). Retrieved on 2010-08-21. Transport Roads in Romania Road network of Romania All transportation infrastructure in Romania is the property of the state, and is administered by the Ministry of Transports, Constructions and Tourism, except when operated as a concession, in which case the concessions are made by the Ministry of Administration and Interior. Romania : transport worldbank.org According to CIA Factbook, Romania total road network is estimated to be 81,713 km long (excluding urban areas), out of which 66,632 km are paved and 15,081 km (2009) are unpaved. The CIA world factbook : Romania www.cia.gov The World Bank estimates that the road network that is outside of cities and communes (i.e. excluding streets and village roads) is about 78,000 km long. There are plans to build a 2,262.7 km-long motorway system, consisting of six main motorways and six bypass motorways, as of 2011, 371.5 km are built and 845 km have construction contracts under way. ""Autostrăzile viitorului" ne pun pe harta țărilor vestice cu 2.000 km". Capital. 18 June 2011. . Retrieved 2011-07-28. Due to its location, Romania is a major crossroad for international economic exchange in Europe. However, because of

insufficient investment, maintenance and repair, the transport infrastructure does not meet the current needs of a market economy and lags behind Western Europe. "Prezentarea generală a rețelei de drumuri" (in Romanian). cnadnr.ro. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. Nevertheless, these conditions are rapidly improving and catching up with the standards of Trans-European transport networks. Several projects have been started with funding from grants from Instrument for Structural Policies for Pre-Accession ISPA and several loans from International Financial Institutions (World Bank, IMF, etc.) guaranteed by the state, to upgrade the Pan-European corridors main road corridors. Also, the Government is actively pursuing new external financing or public-private partnerships to further upgrade the main roads, and especially the country's Roads in Romania motorway network. The Transfăgărășan in the Southern Carpathians. Built in the early 1970s, it is one of the highest and most dramatic roads in Romania. Căile Ferate Române's icon, the "Siemens Desiro Blue Arrow" (Săgeata Albastră) Romania has a relatively well-developed airport infrastructure compared to other countries in Eastern Europe, but still underdeveloped compared to Western European standards. There are 17 commercial airports in service today, most of them opened for international traffic. Five of the airports (Henri Coandă International Airport OTP, Aurel Vlaicu International Airport BBU, Timișoara International Airport TSR, Constanta International Airport CND, Sibiu International Airport SBZ) have runways of over 3,000 m in length and are capable of handling wide-body aircraft. Three of the airports (Bacău International Airport BCM, Craiova Airport CRA, Satu Mare International Airport SUJ) have runways of 2,500 m in length, while the rest of them have runways of 1,800 to 2,000 m. As of December 2006, Tulcea Airport TCE and Caransebeș Airport CSB are the only airports with no regular flights. Almost all the airports have experienced traffic growth in the last 4 years. The World Bank estimates that the railway network in Romania comprised 22298 kilometres (unknown operator: u'strong' mi) of track in 2004, which would make it the fourth largest railroad network in Europe. "Reteaua feroviara" (in Romanian). cfr.to. . Retrieved 2009-09-06. The Căile Ferate Române railway transport experienced a dramatic fall in freight and passenger volumes from the peak volumes recorded in 1989 mainly due to the decline in GDP and competition from road transport. In 2004, the railways carried 8.64 billion passenger-km in 99 million passenger journeys, and 73 million metric tonnes, or 17 billion ton-km of freight. The combined total transportation by rail constituted around 45% of all passenger and freight movement in the country. Bucharest is the only city in Romania which has an rapid transit underground railway system. The Bucharest Metro was opened in 16 November 1979 and is now one of the most accessed systems of the Transport in Bucharest Bucharest public transport network with an average ridership of 600,000 passengers during the workweek. Currently, the Bucharest Metro measures 61.41 km lengthwise and includes five metro lines, one proposed and one under construction. "Metrorex ridership" (in Romanian). Financial Week newspaper. 23 April 2007. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Romania has 16 international airports, of which the busiest are Henri Coandă International Airport (4,917,952 passengers, 2010) and Aurel Vlaicu International Airport (2,118,150 passengers, 2010). Also, Romania disposes of an unworkable international airport (Caransebeș Airport) and 16 under construction or planned airports, whose construction will be completed until 2020. Romania has about 200 flight corridors, as much as any other European country. The air traffic has doubled in the last 20 years, in summer of 2010, Romania was crossed by 150 aircrafts simultaneously, bringing considerable incomes to TAROM airline. As of May 2011, TAROM flies to 47 destinations (including the seasonal destinations), such as: Cairo, Tel Aviv, Dubai, Vienna, Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt am Main, Munich, Athens, Budapest, Rome, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Madrid, Istanbul and London. "Fără autostrăzi, România are la fel de multe coridoare de zbor ca orice țară europeană". Antena3.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Tourism The Constanța Casino, a major Art Nouveau landmark on the Romanian Riviera Tourism focuses on the country's natural landscapes and its rich history and is a significant contributor to the Romanian economy. In 2006, domestic and international tourism generated about 4.8% of gross domestic product and 5.8% of the total jobs (about half a million jobs). "Country/Economy Profiles: Romania, Travel&Tourism" (PDF). World Economic Forum. . Retrieved 2008-01-11. Following commerce, tourism is the second largest component of the services sector. Tourism is one of the most dynamic and fastest developing sectors of the economy of Romania and is characterized by a huge potential for development. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, Romania is the fourth fastest growing country in the world in terms of travel and tourism total demand, with a yearly potential

growth of 8% from 2007 to 2016. "WTTC spells out policy recommendations for Romania to tap travel and tourism potential". WTTC. . Retrieved 2008-01-11. The number of tourists grew from 4.8 million in 2002 to 6.6 million in 2004. Similarly, the revenues grew from 400 million in 2002 to 607 in 2004. In 2006, Romania registered 20 million overnight stays by international tourists, an all-time record, "20 million overnight stays by international tourists". . Retrieved 2008-01-11. but the number for 2007 is expected to increase even more. (PDF) Report from Romanian National Institute of Statistics (Report). . Retrieved 2008-01-11. "for the first 9 months of 2007 an increase from the previous year of 8.7% to 16.5 million tourists; of these 94.0% came from European countries and 61.7% from EU" Tourism in Romania attracted €400 million in investments in 2005. "Tourism attracted in 2005 investments worth €400 million" (in ro). Gandul Newspaper. . Retrieved 2008-01-11. Sighișoara clock tower Over the last years, Romania has emerged as a popular tourist destination for many Europeans (more than 60% of the foreign visitors in 2007 were from EU countries), thus attempting to compete with Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Spain. Destinations such as Mangalia, Saturn, RomaniaSaturn, Venus, RomaniaVenus, Neptun, RomaniaNeptun, Olimp, RomaniaOlimp, Constanța and Mamaia (sometimes called the Romanian Black Sea resortsRomanian Riviera) are among the most popular attractions during summer. "Tan and fun at the Black Sea". UnseenRomania. Archived from the original on 11 October 2007. . Retrieved 2008-01-10. During winter, the skiing resorts along the Valea Prahovei and Poiana Brașov are popular with foreign visitors. For their medieval atmosphere and Castles of Transylvaniacastles, Transylvanian cities such as Sibiu, Brașov, Sighișoara, Cluj-Napoca, Târgu Mureș or Miercurea-Ciuc have become major tourist attractions for foreigners. Rural tourism, focusing on folklore and traditions, has become an important alternative recently, "Turismul renaste la tara" (in Romanian). Romania Libera. 2008-07-05. . Retrieved 2008-08-28. and is targeted to promote such sites as Bran, BrașovBran and its Bran CastleDracula's Castle, the Painted churches of Northern Moldavia, the Wooden churches of Maramureș and Sălaj, or the Merry Cemetery in Maramureș County (at Săpânța). "Bine ati venit pe site-ul de promovare a pensiunilor agroturistice din Romania !!!" (in Romanian). RuralTourism.ro. . Retrieved 2008-08-28. Other major natural attractions, such as the Danube Delta, the Iron Gates (Danube Gorge), Scărișoara Cave and several other caves in the Apuseni Mountains have yet to receive great attention. In terms of tourism potential, Romania benefits from splendid cities, scattered on the smooth plains or high peaks. These include Sibiu, a city built by Transylvanian SaxonsSaxons, with cobblestone streets and colorful houses. The Hunyad Castle, one of the most important monuments of Gothic architecture in Transylvania, can be visited in the picturesque city of Hunedoara. Also, resorts such as Băile Felix, Băile Herculane and Băile Tușnad are points of interest for local and foreign tourists. "Turism in Romania". Turism.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. The Romanian Seaside resortseaside is the most developed tourist area of Romania. In 2009, Romania's Black Sea seaside was visited by 1.3 million tourists, of whom 40,000 were foreign. Criza ne strică vacanța, 9/07/2010, jurnalul.ro, accessed on 21 August 2010 The shore is very varied, formed by slightly wavy shapes, with emphasized capes and deep bays extending into the Dobrogea valleys, with cliffs, beaches and sand cords. In Târgu Jiu one can see the sculptures of Constantin Brâncuși (1876–1957), a Romanian sculptor with overwhelming contributions to the renewal of plastic language and vision in contemporary sculpture. "Constantin Brancusi". Brancusi.1dez.com. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. These include The Endless Column, The Gate of the Kiss and The Table of Silence, which together represent the three parts of Sculptural Ensemble of Constantin Brâncuși at Târgu Jiu a monumental sculptural ensemble. "Ansamblul sculptural Constantin Brancusi din Targu Jiu". Romaniaturistica.com. 1957-03-16. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Science and technology During the 1990s and 2000s (decade), the development of Romanian science was hampered by several factors, including corruption, low funding and a considerable brain drain. http://www.ad-astra.ro/journal/2/editorial_en.pdf However, since the country's accession to the European Union, this has begun to change. After being slashed by 50% in 2009 due to the global recession, R&D spending was increased by 44% in 2010 and now stands at \$0.5 billion (1.5 billion lei). "Bulgaria: Science fortunes of Balkan neighbours diverge – Novinite.com – Sofia News Agency". Novinite.com. 2011-01-13. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. In January 2011, the Parliament also passed a law that enforces "strict quality control on universities and introduces tough rules for funding evaluation and peer review". "Science fortunes of Balkan neighbours diverge : Nature News". Nature.com. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. The country has joined or is about to join several major international

organizations such as CERN and the European Space Agency. "Funeriu: Stiinta din Romania 'se imbunatateste', insa mai sunt multe lucruri de facut". Epochtimes-romania.com. 2011-01-13. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. "Romania is to sign agreement on joining European space agency convention". Actmedia.eu. 2011-01-20. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. Overall, the situation has been characterized as "rapidly improving", albeit from a low base. "Romania's high hopes for science : Nature News". Nature.com. . Retrieved 2011-03-14.

Traian Vuia, early flight pioneerHistorically, Romanian researchers and inventors have made notable contributions to several fields, such as: aeronautics, medicine, mathematics, computer science/engineering, physics, biophysics, chemistry, biochemistry and biology. In the history of flight, Traian Vuia made the first airplane to take off on its own power "Traian Vuia in a Century of Aviation" (in English). Romanian Academy Library. p. 1. . Retrieved 7 August 2012. and Aurel Vlaicu built and flew some of the earliest successful aircraft. Also, Henri Coandă discovered the Coandă effect of fluidics. Preceding him, Elie Carafoli was a pioneering contributor to the field of aerodynamics in the world. Victor Babeş discovered more than 50 germs and a cure for a disease named after him, babesiosis; biologist Nicolae Paulescu discovered insulin. Another biologist, Emil Palade, received the Nobel Prize for his contributions to cell biology. George Constantinescu created the theory of sonics, while Lazăr Edeleanu was the first chemist to synthesize amphetamine and also invented the modern method of Oil refineryrefining crude oil. Costin Neniţescu found new methods for the synthesis of pirilium salts, of carbenes, tryptamine, serotonin, two new syntheses for the indole nucleus, and a new method of polymerisation of ethylene. Several mathematicsmathematicians distinguished themselves as well, among them: Gheorghe Țițeica, Spiru Haret, Grigore Moisil, Miron Nicolescu, Nicolae Popescu and Ștefan Odobleja; the latter is also regarded as the ideological father behind cybernetics. Notable physicists and inventors also include: Horia Hulubei in atomic physics, Șerban Țițeica in theoretical physics, Mihai Gavrilă specialized in quantum theory and discoverer of the atomatomic dichotomy phenomenon, Alexandru Proca (known for the first meson theory of nuclear forces and Proca's equations of the vectorial mesonic field), Ștefan Procopiu known for the first theory of the magnetic moment of the electron in 1911 (now known as the Bohr-Procopiu magneton), Theodor V. Ionescu, the inventor of a multiple-cavity magnetron (1935), a hydrogen maser in 1947, Stereoscopy3D imaging for cinema/television in 1924 and hot deuterium plasma studies for controlled nuclear fusion, Ionel Solomon known for the nuclear magnetic resonance theory in solids, Solomon equations "The Solomon equations" (PDF). . Retrieved 2011-08-29. "Solomon Equations and NOE". Prola.aps.org. 1955-03-29. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. and photovoltaic devices, Petrache Poenaru, Nicolae Teclu and Victor Toma, with the latter known for the invention and construction of the first Romanian computer, the CIFA-1 in 1955.Victor Toma- "Tatăl calculatoarelor din țările socialiste". România liberă, 13 July 2007The nuclear physics facility of the European Union's proposed Extreme Light InfrastructureExtreme Light Infrastructure (ELI) laser will be built in Romania. "ELI-NP | Extreme Light Infrastructure – Nuclear Physics". Eli-np.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Romania currently has 1,400 wattMW of nuclear power capacity by means of one active nuclear power plant (Cernavodă Nuclear Power PlantCernavodă) with 2 reactors, which constitutes around 18% of the national power generation capacity of the country. This makes Romania nuclear power by countrythe 23rd largest user of nuclear power in the world. DemographicsDemographic evolutionHistorical population Year Pop.±% 1866 4424961 — 1887 5500000 +24.3% 1899 5956690 +8.3% 1912 7234919 +21.5% 1930 18057028 +149.6% 1939 19934000 +10.4% 1941 13535757 −32.1% 1948 15872624 +17.3% 1956 17489450 +10.2% 1966 19103163 +9.2% 1977 21559910 +12.9% 1992 22760449 +5.6% 2002 21680974 −4.7% 2011 19042936 −12.2%Figures prior to 1948 do not reflect current borders.Minorities of RomaniaEthnicity in Romania by county (inhabitants) based on 18 March 2002 censusEthnic map of Romania according to 2011 census According to provisional data from Demographic history of Romania2011 census, Romania's population is 19,042,936. Like other countries in the region, its population is expected to gradually decline in the coming years as a result of sub-replacement fertility rates. In October 2011 Romanians made up 88.6% of the population. The largest Minorities of Romaniaethnic minorities are the Hungarians, who make up 6.5% of the population and Romani peopleGypsies, who make up 3.2% of the population.2002 census data, based on Population by ethnicity, gave a total of 535,250 Gypsies in Romania. Many ethnicities not recorded at all, since they do not have ID cards. International sources give higher figures than the official census([[UNDP]'s Regional Bureau for Europe], World

Bank, "International Association for Official Statistics" (PDF). Archived from the original on 2008-02-26. . "European effort spotlights plight of the Roma". *usatoday*. 2005-02-10. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Hungarians constitute a majority in the counties of Harghita County Harghita and Covasna County Covasna. Ukrainians of Romania Ukrainians, Germans of Romania Germans, Lipovans, Turks of Romania Turks, Tatars of Romania Tatars, Serbs of Romania Serbs, Slovaks of Romania Slovaks, Banat Bulgarians Bulgarians, Croats of Romania Croats, Greeks of Romania Greeks, Russians, History of the Jews in Romania Jews, Czechs of Romania Czechs, Polish minority in Romania Poles, Italians of Romania Italians, Armenians in Romania Armenians, as well as other ethnic groups, account for the remaining 1.4% of the population. (in Romanian) Official site of the results of the 2002 Census (Report). . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In 1930, there were 745,421 Germans in Romania, "German Population of Romania, 1930–1948". *hungarian-history.hu*. Archived from the original on 2007-08-17. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. but only about 36,884 remain today, according to the 2011 census. <http://www.insse.ro/cms/files/statistici/comunicate/alte/2012/Comunicat%20DATE%20PROVIZORII%20RPL%202011.pdf>

In 1924, there were 796,056 History of the Jews in Romania Jews in the Kingdom of Romania. "The Virtual Jewish History Tour – Romania". *jewishvirtuallibrary.org*. . Retrieved 2009-09-07. As of 2009, there were also approximately 133,000 immigrants living in Romania, primarily from Moldova, Turkey and China. The fertility rate is decreasing, with 1.4 births per woman recorded in 2009. The birth rate (10.61‰, 2008) is slightly lower than the mortality rate (11.84‰, 2008), resulting in a shrinking and aging population, approx. 14.8% of total population having 65 years and over. Graeme Villeret. "Roumanie". *PopulationData.net*. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. "Romania demographics profile (2011)". *Indexmundi.com*. 2011-07-12. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. The number of Romanians and individuals with ancestors born in Romania living abroad is estimated at around 12 million. After the Romanian Revolution of 1989, a significant number of Romanians emigrated to other European countries, North America or Asia, due to better working conditions and academic possibilities offered abroad. Languages Romance languages in Europe The official language of Romania is Romanian language Romanian, a Romance languages Romance language related to Italian language Italian, French language French, Spanish language Spanish, Catalan language Catalan, and Portuguese language Portuguese. Romanian is spoken as a first language by 91% of the population. Hungarian language Hungarian and Vlax Romani are the most important minority languages, spoken by 6.7% and 1.1% of the population, respectively. Until the early 1990s, there were also a substantial number of German-speaking Transylvanian Saxons, even though most have since emigrated to Germany, leaving only 45,000 native German speakers in Romania. There are approximately 32,000 Turkish speakers in Romania. "POPULATION BY ETHNIC GROUPS AT POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUS, ON MARCH 18, 2002". *Insse.ro*. 2002-03-18. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Bilingual sign in Sibiu, showing the city's name in Romanian language Romanian and German language German In localities where a given ethnic minority makes up more than 20% of the population, that minority's language can be used in the public administration and justice system, while native-language education and signage is also provided. Hungarians make up some 19% of the population of Transylvania; there are many towns and communes in parts of Transylvania that have Hungarian as a second official language. Language rights are sensitive in these areas, where Hungarian speakers are campaigning for greater official status, and Székely autonomy initiatives possible autonomy for the predominantly Hungarian counties of eastern Transylvania ('Székely Land'). English language English and French language French are the main foreign languages taught in schools. English is spoken by 5 million Romanians, French is spoken by 4–5 million, and German, Italian and Spanish are each spoken by 1–2 million people. Historically, French was the predominant foreign language spoken in Romania, but English has since superseded it. Consequently, Romanian English-speakers tend to be younger than Romanian French-speakers. Romania is, however, a full member of organisation internationale de la Francophonie La Francophonie, and hosted the Francophonie Summit in 2006. "Chronology of the International Organization La Francophonie" (in French) (pdf). Archived from the original on 24 June 2008. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. German has been taught predominantly in Transylvania, due to traditions tracing back to the Austro-Hungarian rule in this province. The Romanian language remains, according to the Constitution of Romania, the only official language of Romania, but local councils ensure linguistic rights to all Minorities of Romania minorities, who form over 11% of

the total population. Foreign citizens and stateless persons that live in Romania have access to justice and education in their own language. "Constitutia României". Cdep.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.

Religion in Romania

Religion	Percentage
Romanian Orthodox Church	86.7%
Protestantism	5.2%
Roman Catholicism	4.7%
Greek-Catholic	0.9%
Islam in Romania	0.3%

Romania is a secular state and has no state religion. However, an overwhelming majority of the country's citizens identify themselves as Christians. 86.7% of the country's population identified as Orthodox Christian according to the 2002 census, the vast majority of which belongs to the Romanian Orthodox Church. Other major Christian denominations include Protestantism (5.2%), Roman Catholicism in Romania (4.7%) and the Romanian Greek-Catholic Church (0.9%). The latter two religious organizations suffered most severely under the Communist regime. The Greek-Catholic Church was outlawed by the Communist government in 1948; Harper-Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism, 1132; Niessen, "The Greek Catholic Church and the Romanian Nation," 59–60 later, under the Ceaușescu regime, several churches in Transylvania were demolished. Protestants and Roman Catholics are also concentrated in Transylvania. The foundation of the oldest-known Romanian Orthodox church is still visible at Drobeta-Turnu Severin today, and dates from the 14th century; however, much earlier crypts with unearthed relics of Christian martyrs executed at the orders of the Roman emperor Diocletian were found in local church records dating as far back as the 3rd century AD. Thus, the relics of Saint Sava the Goth who was martyred by drowning in the river Buzău in Romania, under Athanaric, on 12 April 372, were reverently received by St. Basil the Great. Earlier still, the first known Daco-Roman Christian priest Montanus and his wife Maxima were drowned because of their Christian faith, as martyrs, on 26 March 304. Metropolitan Cathedral, Iași, the largest Orthodox church in Romania, founded in 1833

Romania also has a Muslim minority concentrated in Dobruja, mostly of Turkish and Tatar ethnicity and numbering 67,500 people. Romanian Census Website with population by religion (Report). Recensamant.ro. . Retrieved 2008-01-01. According to the results of the 2002 census, there are 66,846 Romanian citizens of the Unitarian faith (0.3% of the total population). Of the total Hungarian-speaking minority in Romania, Unitarians represent 4.55%, being the third denominational group after members of the Reformed Church in Romania (47.10%) and Roman Catholics (41.20%). Since 1700, the Unitarian Church has had 125 parishes—in 2006, there were 110 Unitarian ministers and 141 places of worship in Romania. According to the 2002 census, there were 6,179 History of the Jews in Romania Jews, 23,105 people who are of no religion and/or atheist, and 11,734 who refused to answer. On 27 December 2006, a new Law on Religion was approved under which religious denominations can only receive official registration if they have at least 20,000 members, or about 0.1% of Romania's total population. "Romania President Approves Europe's "Worst Religion Law"". . Retrieved 2008-08-31.

The Romanian Orthodox Church is an autocephalous Orthodox church. It is in full communion with other Orthodox churches, and is ranked Eastern Orthodox Church organization seventh in order of precedence. The Primate (religion) Primate of the church has the title of Patriarch. Its jurisdiction covers the territory of Romania, with dioceses for Romanians living in nearby Moldova, Serbia and Hungary, as well as diaspora communities in Central and Western Europe, North America and Oceania. It is the only Orthodox church using a Romance language. The majority of people in Romania (18,817,975, or 86.8% of the population, according to the 2002 census data 2002 census data on religion) belong to it, as well as some 720,000 Moldovans. (Romanian) "Biserica Ortodoxă Română, atacată de bisericile 'surori'" ("The Romanian Orthodox Church, Attacked by Its 'Sister' Churches", Ziua, 31 January 2008 The Romanian Orthodox Church is the second-largest in size after the Russian Orthodox Church. The most significant holidays of the Romanian Orthodox Church are: Baptism of Jesus (6 January); Resurrection of Jesus (has no fixed date), associated with Easter; Ascension of Jesus (has no fixed date, celebrated 40 days after Easter); Dormition of the Theotokos (15 August), preceded by two weeks of fasting; Nativity of the Theotokos (8 September); Nativity of Jesus (25 December), associated with Christmas. Urbanization In the years following the Revolution has been a massive migration from village to city, but since 1996, the trend was reversed, and after 2005 was even stronger. Between 2005 and 2008, the number of people who have changed residence from rural to urban was 294,000, while the number of people who have changed residence from urban to rural was 418,000, difference being of over 120,000 people. Between 1996 and 2008, the difference was 313,000. "Urbanization of Romania: how

urban population increased from 3.7 million in 1948 to 12 million in 1989". Businessday.ro. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. According to statistics compiled in 2004, 11,895,600 citizens (54.88%) lived in the urban areaurban environment, and 9,777,728 citizens (45.12%) lived in the rural arearural environment. The most urbanized counties are Hunedoara County (76.87%), Braşov County (74.91%) and Constanţa County (71.12%), while the most sparsely urbanized counties are Ilfov County (26.09%), Dâmboviţa County (30.06%) and Giurgiu County (30.95%).

"Adevărul" - The second urbanization of Romania". Adevarul.ro. 29 February 2008. . Retrieved 24 April 2012. Bucharest is the capital and the largest city in Romania. At the census in 2011, its population was over 1.6 million. The Larger Urban ZonesLUZ area of Bucharest has a population of 2,192,372 inhabitants. "Urban Audit". Urban Audit. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. As of 2011, there are plans to establish a metropolitan area up to 20 times the area of the city proper. "Proiect – Zona metropolitană Bucureşti". Zmb.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. "Metropolitan Zone of Bucharest will be ready in 10 years" (in Romanian). Romania Libera. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. "Official site of Metropolitan Zone of Bucharest Project" (in Romanian). . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Romania has four other cities that are among the European Union's Largest cities of the European Union by population within city limits100 most populous: Cluj-Napoca, Timişoara, Iaşi and Constanţa. Other cities with populations over 200,000 are Craiova, Galaţi and Braşov. Another 11 cities have a population of over 100,000. "HARTA INTERACTIVA Cum s-a schimbat ierarhia marilor orase din tara. Au mai ramas doar doua orase de provincie cu populatia de peste 300.000 de locuitori" (in Romanian). Hotnews.ro. 6 February 2012. . Retrieved 14 February 2012. "Romanian Statistical Yearbook" (PDF). Romanian National Institute of Statistics. 2007. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. At present, several of the largest cities have a Metropolitan areas in Romaniametropolitan area: Constanţa metropolitan areaConstanţa (446,595 inhab.), Iaşi metropolitan areaIaşi (402,786 inhab.), Braşov metropolitan areaBraşov (402,041 inhab.), Cluj-Napoca metropolitan areaCluj-Napoca (392,562 inhab.), "Zona Metropolitană Urbana" (in Romanian). CJ Cluj. . Retrieved 25 May 2009. "Comunicat de presă privind rezultatele provizorii ale Recensământului Populaţiei şi Locuinţelor – 2011". Cluj County Regional Statistics Directorate. 2012-02-02. . Retrieved 2012-02-14. Craiova metropolitan areaCraiova (333,834 inhab.) and Oradea metropolitan areaOradea (249,746 inhab.), and several others are planned: Bucharest metropolitan areaBucharest, Timişoara metropolitan areaTimişoara, Lower Danube metropolitan areaBrăila-Galaţi, Bacău metropolitan areaBacău and Ploieşti metropolitan areaPloieşti. "Map of Romanian municipalities that can have metropolitan areas in maroon". zmi.com. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Rural areas represent about 90% of total area of the country, and their share – among the highest in Europe – amounts to 47.3% of the total population. In December 2006 Romania had 2,854 communes, consisting of 12,951 villages. The average population of a Romanian village is about 800 people. "Sat – Enciclopedia României – prima enciclopedie online despre România" (in (Romanian)). Enciclopediaromaniei.ro. 2011-05-07. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. EducationSince the Romanian Revolution of 1989, the Romanian educational system has been in a continuous process of reform that has been both praised and criticized. The Romanian Educational Policy in Transition (Report). UNESCO. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. According to the Law on Education adopted in 1995, the educational system is regulated by the Ministry of Education and Research of RomaniaMinistry of Education and Research. Each level has its own form of organization and is subject to different legislation. Kindergarten is optional for children between 3 and 6 years old. Schooling starts at age 7 (sometimes 6), and is compulsory until the 10th grade (which usually corresponds to the age of 17 or 16). The Romanian Educational Policy in Transition (Report). UNESCO. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Primary schoolPrimary and Secondary schoolsecondary education are divided into 12 grades. Higher education is aligned with the European higher education area. Politehnica University of Bucharest, one of the most prestigious educational institutions in RomaniaAside from the official schooling system, and the recently added private equivalents, there exists a semi-legal, informal, fully Tutoring#Private tutorsprivate tutoring system. Tutoring is mostly used during Secondary schoolsecondary as a preparation for the various examinations, which are notoriously difficult. Tutoring is widespread, and it can be considered a part of the Education System. It has subsisted and even prospered during the Communist regime. "Limited relevant. What feminists can learn from the eastern experience" (PDF). genderomania.ro. . Retrieved 2008-08-25. In 2004, some 4.4 million of the population were enrolled in school. Out of

these, 650,000 in kindergarten, 3.11 million (14% of population) in primary and secondary level, and 650,000 (3% of population) in tertiary level (universities). "Romanian Institute of Statistics Yearbook – Chapter 8" (in Romanian) (PDF). . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In the same year, the adult literacy rate was 97.3% (45th worldwide), while the combined gross enrollment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools was 75% (52nd worldwide). "UN Human Development Report 2006" (PDF). Archived from the original on 2007-02-02. .The results of the PISA assessment study in schools for the year 2000 placed Romania on the 34th rank out of 42 participant countries with a general weighted score of 432 representing 85% of the mean OECD score. OECD International Program for Evaluation of Students, National Report (Report). București: Romanian Ministry of Education. 2002. pp. 10–15. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. According to the Academic Ranking of World Universities, in 2006 no Romanian university was included in the first 500 top universities world wide. (PDF) Academic Ranking World University 2006: Top 500 World University (Report). . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Using similar methodology to these rankings, it was reported that the best placed Romanian university, Bucharest University, attained the half score of the last university in the world top 500. Răzvan Florian (PDF). Romanian Universities and the Shanghai rankings (Report). Cluj-Napoca, România: Asociația Ad Astra a cercetătorilor români. pp. 7–9. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. In the most recently ranking Babes-Bolyai University was ranked number 1 University in Romania in 2009 by Capital. "EXCLUSIV: Topul universităților din România >". Capital.ro. . Retrieved 2012-04-29. BBU is followed by University of Bucharest which is the second and by Transilvania University which is placed 3rd. Notably, Bucharest boasts the largest university in Europe by number of students, Spiru Haret University. Cum a ajuns "Spiru Haret" cea mai mare universitate din lume Financiarul, 13 July 2009. CultureThe Palace of Culture (Iași)Palace of Culture in Iași, built on the ruins of the Royal Court of Moldavia, hosts the largest art collection in Romania. Constantin Brâncuși, prominent sculptorRomania has a unique culture, which is the product of its geography and of its distinct historical evolution. Like Romanians themselves, it is fundamentally defined as the meeting point of three regions: Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and the Balkans, but cannot be truly included in any of them. "Romania – Culture". Archived from the original on 31 December 2007. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Arts, literature and philosophyA unified Romanian literature began to develop with the Wallachian Revolution of 1848revolutions of 1848 and the union of the two Danubian Principalities in 1859. The origin of the Romanians began to be discussed and by the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th century, Școala ArdeleanăRomanian Transylvanian scholars along with Romanian scholars from Moldavia and Wallachia began studying in France, Italy and Germany. "Cultural aspects". National Institute for Research & Development in Informatics, Romania. Archived from the original on 7 March 2008. . Retrieved 2008-08-28. German philosophy and French culture were integrated into modern Romanian literature, and a new elite of artists led to the appearance of some of the classics of Romanian literature such as Mihai Eminescu, George Coșbuc, Ioan Slavici. Although not particularly renowned outside the country, these writers are widely appreciated within Romania for giving birth to modern Romanian literature. Eminescu is considered the greatest and most influential Romanian poet, particularly for the poem Luceafărul. "Mihai Eminescu" (in Romanian). National Institute for Research & Development in Informatics, Romania. Archived from the original on 2007-12-31. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. Among other writers that rose to prominence in the second half of 19th century are Mihail Kogălniceanu, Vasile Alecsandri, Nicolae Bălcescu, Ion Luca Caragiale, and Ion Creangă. The first half of the 20th century is regarded by many scholars as the Golden Age of Romanian culture, as it is the period when it reached its greatest level of international affirmation and enjoyed a strong connection to Culture of EuropeWestern European cultural trends. Mona Momescu. "Romanian Cultural Debate of the Summer: Romanian Intellectuals and Their Status Groups". Romanian Club @ Columbia University. . Retrieved 2008-08-28. Notably, figures such as Tristan Tzara and Marcel Janco pioneered the anti-war Dada movement beginning with the First World War. Tom Sandqvist, DADA EAST: The Romanians of Cabaret Voltaire, London MIT Press, 2006. The most prominent Romanian artist of this time, however, was sculptor Constantin Brâncuși, a central figure of the modern movement and a pioneer of abstraction. His works present a blend of simplicity and sophistication that led the way for modern artmodernist sculptors. "Constantin Brâncuși's bio". Brancusi.com. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. As a testimony to his skill, one of his pieces, Bird in Space, was sold in an auction for \$27.5 million in 2005, a record for any sculpture. "Brancusi's 'Bird

in Space' Sets World Auction Record for Sculpture at \$27,456,000". Antiques and the Arts Online. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. "November 9, The price record for a Brancusi masterpiece was set up in 2005 when "Bird in Space" was sold for USD 27.5 M". Romanian Information Center in Brussels. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. In the interwar years, Romanian literature was greatly expanded through the works of, among others, Tudor Arghezi, Mircea Eliade, Lucian Blaga, George Bacovia, Eugen Barbu and Liviu Rebreanu. After the World Wars, Communism brought 'absolute' censorship and used the cultural world as well as a means to tightly control the population in addition to the much feared "Securitate" paramilitary organization, numerous formers and their informers. Freedom of expression was constantly restricted in various ways, but the likes of Gellu Naum, Nichita Stănescu, Marin Sorescu or Marin Preda managed to escape censorship, broke with "socialist realism" and were the leaders of a small "Renaissance" in Romanian literature. Ștefănescu, Alex. (1999) (in Romanian). Nichita Stănescu, The Angel With A Book In His Hands. Mașina de scris. p. 8. ISBN 978-973-99297-4-5. While not many of them managed to obtain international acclaim due to censorship, some, like Constantin Noica, Paul Goma and Mircea Cărtărescu, had their works published abroad even though they were jailed for various political reasons. Some artists chose to leave the country for good and continued to make contributions in exile. Among them Eugen Ionescu, Mircea Eliade and Emil Cioran became renowned internationally for their works. Other literary figures who enjoy acclaim outside of the country include the poet Paul Celan and Nobel Prize laureate Elie Wiesel, both survivors of the Holocaust. The novelist, poet and essayist Herta Müller also received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2009. Romanian contemporary cinema has achieved worldwide acclaim with the appearance of such films as *The Death of Mr. Lăzărescu*, directed by Cristi Puiu, (2005 Cannes Film Festival Cannes 2005 Prix un certain regard winner) and *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*, directed by Cristian Mungiu (2007 Cannes Film Festival Cannes 2007 Palme d'Or winner). "Cannes 2007 Winners". Alternative Film Guide. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. The latter, according to *Variety* (magazine) *Variety*, is "further proof of Romanian New Wave Romania's new prominence in the film world." Also, the cinematographic drama *If I Want to Whistle, I Whistle* directed by Florin Șerban was nominated for the Golden Bear at the 60th Berlin International Film Festival and won the Jury Grand Prix (the Silver Bear). Jay Weissberg (2007-05-17). "4 Months, 3 Weeks & 2 Days". *Variety* (magazine) *Variety*. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. "Prizes of the International Jury". . Retrieved 2010-02-21. Music George Enescu is widely regarded as the most prominent Romanian composer. The first half of the 20th century saw the rise of George Enescu, Romania's greatest composer. "George Enescu, the composer". International Enescu Society. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. A child prodigy, Enescu created his first musical composition at the age of five and became an accomplished composer, violinist, pianist, conducting conductor and teacher. "George Enescu (1881–1955)". National Institute for Research & Development in Informatics, Romania. Archived from the original on 15 January 2008. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. The annual George Enescu Festival is held in Bucharest in his honor. Also active in this period was Dinu Lipatti, a pianist notable for his interpretations of Chopin, Mozart and Bach. Some famous postwar Romanian musicians are folk artists Maria Tănase, Tudor Gheorghe, and virtuoso of the pan flute Gheorghe Zamfir, the latter having sold over 120 million albums worldwide. "Sounds Like Canada feat. Gheorghe Zamfir". CBC Radio. 2006-01-17. Archived from the original on 28 April 2008. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. "Gheorghe Zamfir, master of the pan pipe". Gheorghe Zamfir, Official Homepage. . Retrieved 2008-01-20. Artists from Romania have recently begun to inch their way onto the international pop music scene, scoring millions of views on YouTube and selling hundreds of thousands of singles. Among the best known are Inna, Edward Maya, Akcent and Alexandra Stan. Maya's "Stereo Love" became the first number one song in Billboard (magazine) Billboard's year-end Hot Dance Airplay Dance Airplay chart to have reached number one three times in its chart run, while competing in a line-up that included Lady Gaga. Since the 2009 release of "Stereo Love", the Bucharest-born composer has won gold and platinum albums from Canada to Spain and toured clubs as far away as India and Pakistan. "Care e artistul roman cu cea mai mare priza in afara tarii? Sondaj". Ziare.com. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Inna, the first European female singer to surpass one billion hits on YouTube Inna, however, has been the most successful, having sold nearly two million singles worldwide, notably in the United States and United Kingdom. Inna has had more than 120 million views on YouTube for her hits like "Amazing (Inna song) Amazing", "Sun Is Up", "Hot (Inna song) Hot", "10 Minutes" or "Club Rocker" and more than five million fans




on Facebook. Alexandra Stan, also a very popular singer has managed millions of views on YouTube and has won many song contests in countries like Israel, Germany or United States. She has also put together her first album consisting of songs such as "Mr. Saxobeat". The Single (music)single "Get Back (ASAP)" was awarded in Italy with music recording sales certificationPlatinum Disc, for sales of over 60,000 copies, also Inna being awarded with music recording sales certificationGold Discs in Netherlands and France. "VIDEO Inna a castigat discul de platina in Franta – Muzica – HotNews.ro". Life.hotnews.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.Romania joined the Eurovision Song Contest 1994, after an unsuccessful attempt the year before. Their best result is three (first in the 2005 final) while their worst is being number twenty-two. Mihai Trăistariu is the Romanian singer with most international performances. His song, "Torneo", was ranked the fourth place at Eurovision Song Contest 2006, with 172 points. He has sold over 1.5 million albums in Romania and abroad. Also, Paula Seling and Ovidiu CernăuțeanuOvi Martin were ranked third place at televoting results of Eurovision Song Contest 2010, with 162 points.Dan Arsenie. "Paula Seling despre rezultatul la Eurovision 2010: "Mai bine de atât nu se putea!" >". EVZ.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.MonumentsThe Romanian Athenaeum in Bucharest was opened in 1888The list of World Heritage Sites "Official list of WHS within Romania". UNESCO. . Retrieved 2008-01-31. includes Romanian sites such as the Saxon villages with fortified churches in Transylvania, the Painted churches of northern Moldavia with their fine exterior and interior frescoes, the Wooden Churches of Maramureș unique examples that combine Gothic style with traditional timber construction, the Monastery of Horezu, the citadel of Sighișoara, and the Dacian Fortresses of the Orăștie Mountains. "World Heritage List from Romania". UNESCO. . Retrieved 2008-01-31.Peleş Castle (Sinaia), built between 1873–1914, is considered one of the most beautiful castles in Romania and Eastern Europe. "Muzeul National Peles | Site-ul oficial al castelelor Peles si Pelisor". Peles.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Unique architecture and gold gilded rooms attract thousands of visitors daily. Voroneț Monastery, built in 1488, is one of the most valuable foundations of Stephen the Great. Also, Unirii Square is the treasure in the heart of Cluj-Napoca, on which rises the St. Michael's Church, Cluj-NapocaSt. Michael's Roman Catholic Church, guarded by two "twin" buildings on the eastern side. Located at 29.7 km (unknown operator: u'strong' mi) from Brașov, between Bucegi and Piatra Craiului Mountains, Bran Castle is a major national monument and tourist landmark. Built by Saxons in the 14th century, today it hosts an art and furniture collection by Marie of RomaniaQueen Marie, but is also marketed as the legendary residence of Bram Stoker's Dracula. "Castelul Bran". Viaromania.eu. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.Romania's contribution to the World Heritage List stands out because it consists of some groups of monuments scattered around the country, rather than one or two special landmarks. "World Heritage Site – Romania". . Retrieved 2008-01-31. Also, in 2007, the city of Sibiu, famous for its Brukenthal National Museum, was the European Capital of Culture alongside the city of Luxembourg. "Report on the Nominations from Luxembourg and Romania for the European Capital of Culture 2007" (PDF). The Selection Panel for the European Capital of Culture (ECOC) 2007. 2004-04-05. . Retrieved 2008-08-31.SportsLucian Bute, the former International Boxing FederationIBF Super Middleweight champion in professional boxing and chosen number 1 at the Super Middleweight in 2011 by BoxrecOină is a traditional Romanian sporting game continuously practiced at least since the 14th century, pursuant to chronicles and charters, first official documentary attestation dating since 1364, during the reign of Vladislav I of Wallachia. "Romanian Federation of Oină – History of the game". Federatiaromanadeoina.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Oină is a sporting game practiced outdoors, on a rectangular field, preferably covered with grass, between two teams of eleven players. The game requires for complex sports skills and is similar to sports common in other countries, such as German languageGerman Schlagball, FinlandFinnish palsepool, French languageFrench jeu de paume, respectively Irish languageIrish cluiche corr. Oină underlying the baseball, being borrowed from the period in which it not evolved enough, compared to contemporary period, in which oină represents an extremely complex game.Association football is the most popular sport in Romania."Romania". The Europa World Year Book. 2. Routledge. 2007. The governing body is the Romanian Football Federation, which belongs to UEFA. At the international level, the Romania national football team has taken part seven times in the FIFA World Cup. It had its most successful period in the 1990s, when during the 1994 FIFA World Cup in the United States, Romania reached the quarter-finals and was ranked sixth by FIFA. The core player of this "Golden Generation" "Hagi leaves Romania

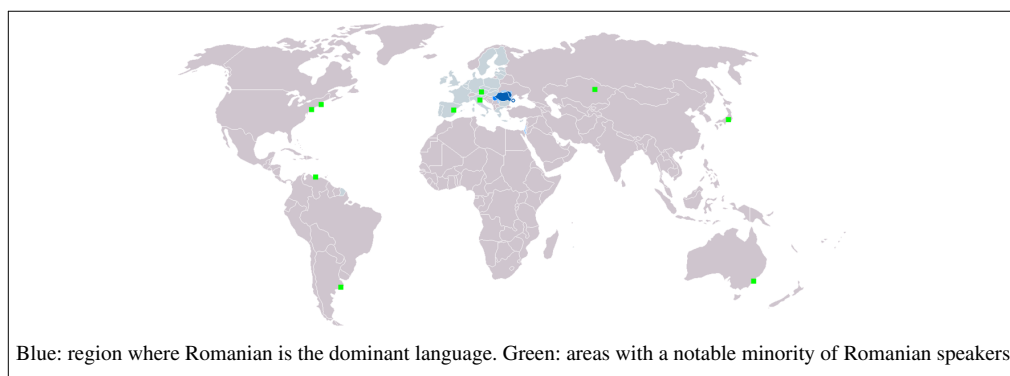
post". BBC Sport. 2001-11-26. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. "Hagi enjoyed legendary status in Romania where he spearheaded the 'Golden Generation' of players..." and perhaps the best known Romanian player internationally is Gheorghe Hagi (nicknamed the Maradona of the Carpathians). "Hagi snubs Maradona". BBC Sport Online. 2001-04-06. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. Famous currently active players are Adrian Mutu and Cristian Chivu. The most famous football club is FC Steaua București. Steaua București, who in European Cup 1985-86/1986 became the first Eastern European club ever to win the prestigious UEFA Champions League/European Champions Cup title, and who European Cup 1988-89 played the final again in 1989. Another successful Romanian team FC Dinamo București. Dinamo București played a semifinal in the European Champions Cup in 1984 and a Cup Winners Cup semifinal in the 1990. Other important Romanian football clubs are FC Rapid București. Rapid București, CFR 1907 Cluj-Napoca and FC Universitatea Craiova. Ilie Năstase, first number 1 of the Association of Tennis Professionals/ATP. Tennis is the second most popular sport in terms of registered sportsmen. Romania reached the Davis Cup finals three times (1969, 1971, 1972). The tennis player Ilie Năstase won several Grand Slam (tennis) Grand Slam titles and dozens of other tournaments, and was the first player to be List of ATP number 1 ranked players ranked as number 1 by Association of Tennis Professionals/ATP from 1973 to 1974. His doubles and Davis Cup Partner as well as mentor, Ion Țiriac is now the most successful businessman in the country. Virginia Ruzici won the French Open in 1978, while in 1980 she was runner-up. Florența Mihai was another female tennis player from Romania who played the final of the French Open in 1977. The Romanian Open is held every fall in Bucharest since 1993. Irina Spîrlea was number 7 in the world in the Women's Tennis Association/WTA and Andrei Pavel top 15 of the Association of Tennis Professionals/ATP, both in the 90s. Famous currently active players are Sorana Cîrstea, Simona Halep, Monica Niculescu, Irina Begu, Alexandra Dulgheru, Victor Hănescu and Horia Tecău. Popular team sports are rugby union (Romania national rugby union team/national rugby team has National team appearances in the Rugby World Cup/so far competed at every Rugby World Cup), basketball and team handball/handball. The Romania national handball team is a four-time world champion team, with Sweden and France (record holder), while CS Oltchim Râmnicu Vâlcea/Oltchim Râmnicu Vâlcea is a top team in women's team handball/handball. Some popular individual sports are: athletics, chess, sport dance, and martial arts and other fighting sports. Fighting sports are actually popular in Romania, especially in the TV broadcastings. Famous boxers include Nicolae Linca, Francisc Vaștag, Mihai Leu, Leonard Doroftei, Adrian Diaconu and Lucian Bute, while Daniel Ghiță became the first Romanian kickboxer to qualify for the K-1 World Grand Prix 2010 Final/K-1 World Grand Prix Final. Famous Athletics (sport)/athletes with outstanding results in this sport were: Iolanda Balaș, Lia Manoliu, Doina Melinte, Viorica Viscopoleanu, Mihaela Peneș, Argentina Menis, Ileana Silai, Anișoara Cușmir, Maricica Puică, Paula Ivan, Gabriela Szabo, Lidia Simon and lately Monica Iagăr, Marian Oprea, Mihaela Melinte or Constantina Diță-Tomescu. Romanian gymnastics has had a large number of successes – for which the country became known worldwide. Romanians were for example stereotyped as gymnasts, as in the South Park episode Quintuplets 2000. In the 1976 Summer Olympics, the gymnast Nadia Comăneci became the first gymnast ever to score a perfect ten in an Olympic event. She also won three gold medals, one silver and one bronze, all at the age of fifteen. Robin Herman (1976-03-28). "Gymnast Posts Perfect Mark". New York Times. . Retrieved 2008-08-13. Her success continued in the 1980 Summer Olympics, where she was awarded two gold medals and two silver medals. In her career she won 30 medals, of which 21 were gold. Romania participated for the first time in the Olympic Games in 1900 and has taken part in 18 of the 24 summer games. Romania has been one of the more successful countries at the Summer Olympic Games (All-time Olympic Games medal count/15th overall) with a total of 283 medals won throughout the years, 82 of which are gold medals. "All-Time Medal Standings, 1896–2004". infoplease.com. . Retrieved 2008-08-31. They were noted for participating in the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, United States, in defiance of a Warsaw Pact boycott, finishing second in gold medals (20) and third in total medal count (53). Traditions/Easter egg/Painted eggs In addition to the religious aspects, in Romania Easter also symbolizes the rebirth and the renewal of daily life. It is usual on Easter morning, after the return of villagers from churches, for children to go to neighbors' homes, to bring luck and wealth, in exchange for a red egg. On Christmas Eve, young people carol the village homes, hosts giving in exchange nuts, sponge cakes, apples, pretzels and other delicacies.

The ChristmasStar boys' singing procession is a very important part of the Romanian Christmas festivity. In the week between Christmas and New Year, in all villages, groups of lads prepare for "bid", a complex system of customs and habits. On the evening, in the eve of respective year which arises promising, are expected to occur "Ursul", "Capra", "Bunghierii", "Căiuții", "Malanca", "Jienii", "Mascații" and others.Improve It Grup S.R.L. "Traditii si obiceiuri romanesti. Artizanat traditional romanesc. Arta populara". Traditii.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29.Folkloric dance group from Sibiu The Romanian dressRomanian folkloric costumes characterize own attributes of the Romanian people and contribute essentially at the definition of ethnic specificity. Closely related to human existence, the folkloric costume reflected over time, as reflected nowadays, mentality and artistic conception of the people. The folkloric costume has been developed with history, being a genuine expression of coherent traditions throughout centuries. Distinct clothing ornamentation, traditional methods used for sewing and tailoring the pieces of clothing, and wide variety of costumes from one region to another customize the defining spirit of the Romanian people. For women, one of the most important parts of the celebration costume is a kerchief called maramă. A maramă is made from a special fabric called borangic, which resembles silk, so the texture of the material is really nice and soft. An important aspect is its transparency, given by the weaver in which it's made. The borangic is obtained from silkworms' cocoons. Every woman grows the silkworms in her own yard, feeding them with mulberry leaves. After approximately 6 weeks, the worms would hide in their cocoons and the person who's in charge of them should move the cocoons into the sun so the worms die and the silk filament can be extracted. Once all the filaments are extracted, they're put into a weaver and one woman starts making the maramă.http://www.unibuc.ro/uploads_ro/48384/1328/CIVILIZATIA_TRADITIONALA.pdfAlso, the folklore of Romania is defined by its mythology, branch of literaturefolk literature that integrates a variety of ancestral habits, Folk taletales, fables and ballads, whose authors are anonymous. The rural character of the Romanian communities resulted in an exceptionally vital and creative traditional culture. So, in Romanian mythology were conceived fabulous beings, unreal characters endowed with supernatural powers. These include Baba Cloanța, a misshapen and recondite witch, Iele, inconstant virgins endowed with unapproachable ability of seduction and superhuman features, Muma Pădurii, a hag that lives in deep forest, Strigoi, troubled souls of the dead rising from the grave and Făt-Frumos, a knight hero that fights with Balaurgriiffons, Zmeudragons and witches to liberate his heart chosen, Ileana Cosânzeana.<http://andilandi.ro/marul-de-aur/personaje-mitologice-romanesti/> The words "longing" and "mourning" have correspondent in another language, but the nonfigurative character remains undecipherable and define specificity of the Romanian soul. Doina, characteristic only Romanian literary folklore, represents the lyric creation that Romanian expresses the most varied and complex range of feelings, strongly rooted in his spiritual structure. In the Romanian folkloric tradition, "doina" was played mainly orally or accompanied by a single Musical instrumentinstrument, being the song of elegy, played for self comforting and not intended for festive events because of its sober nature.CuisineAmandine (dessert)Amandine cakesRomanian cuisine is a diverse blend of different dishes from several traditions with which it has come into contact, but it also maintains its own character. It has been greatly influenced by Ottoman cuisine but also includes influences from the cuisines of other neighbours, such as the Greek cuisineGreeks (Moussakamusaca), Bulgarian cuisineBulgarians (zacuscă), Turkish cuisineTurks (pilaf), and Hungarian cuisineHungarians (Lángoslangoși). Quite different types of dishes are sometimes included under a generic term; for example, the category ciorbă includes a wide range of soups with a characteristic sour taste. These may be meat and vegetable soups, tripe and calf foot soups, or fish soups, all of which are soured by lemon juice, sauerkraut juice, vinegar, or traditionally Branborș (fermented wheat bran). Popular main courses include mititei, frigărui and the Schnitzelșnițel. One of the most common dishes is mămăliga (similar to the Italian polenta), and is served on its own or as a side dish. Pork and chicken are the preferred meats, but beef, lamb and fish are also popular.Sarma (food)Sarmale are prepared from minced meat (pork, beef, mutton, poultry or fish meat, especially in the Danube Delta), mixed with rice and other aliments (pap, couscous etc.) and wrapped in cabbage (fresh or sour) or vine leaves in the form of rolls. Usually, they are served with polenta and smetana, but can be served with a spoonful of fresh butter. The list of desserts includes names like Amandine (dessert)amandine, Crêpeclătite, Coffee cakechec, cozonac, Pączkigogoși, Cream of Wheatgrîș cu lapte, Floating island (dessert)lapte de pasăre etc. In the

north-western Romania, are prepared so-called ciureghe, gomboți cu prune, păczkipancove, pieplăcinte crețe, while in the north-eastern Romania, the traditional desserts are coffee cake chech cu vișine, tartă cu mere, cake alivenci moldovenești. "Retete traditionale Moldova: retete peste sau cu carne de porc.". Bucataras.ro. 2008-12-15. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. *Pălincă* *Palincă* de prune, a traditional brandy fruit brandy *Țuică* is a strong plum brandy that is widely regarded as the country's traditional alcoholic beverage, along with Romanian wine. Romania is the world's second largest plum producer (after the United States) Romania second to USA in world plum production, 2007 plum production data on FAOSTAT and as much as 75% of Romania's plum production is processed into the famous *țuică*, a plum brandy obtained through one or more distillation steps reaching (but not limited to) an 70% alcohol concentration depending on the number of steps of distillation. "Țuica production consumed 75% of Romanian plums in 2003". Regard-est.com. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Alcoholic beverages are also obtained from other fruits (see *rachiu*, *palincă* and *vișinată*). "Study in Romania". Educations.com. 2008-02-05. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. Wine, however, is the preferred drink, and Romanian wines have a tradition of over three millennia. Romania is currently the world's 9th largest wine producer, and recently the export market has started to grow. Romania produces a wide selection of domestic varieties (*Fetească*, *Grasă de Cotnari* *Grasă*, *Tămâioasă Românească* *Tămâioasă*, *Băbească Neagră* *Băbească*), as well as varieties from across the world (*Welschriesling* *Italian Riesling*, *Merlot*, *Sauvignon blanc*, *Cabernet Sauvignon*, *Chardonnay*, *Muscat Ottonel*). Beer is also highly regarded, generally *Pilsener* blonde pilsener beer, the traditional methods of preparation being generally influenced by beer in Germany German wheat beers. There are some Romanian breweries with a long tradition, such as *Timișoreana*, *Ursus* Breweries *Ursus* and *Azuga*. Since the 19th century, beer has become increasingly popular, and today Romanians are amongst the heaviest Beer in Romania beer drinkers in the world. Diana Tudor. "Romania enters global top 10 for beer consumption | Ziarul Financiar". Zf.ro. . Retrieved 2011-03-14. Certain recipes are made in direct connection with the season or the holidays. At Christmas, each family usually sacrifice a pig and prepare a large variety of dishes of its meat and organs (*sausage* *cârnați*, *caltaboși*, *koftachiftele*, *drumtobă*, *schnitzelșnițele*). At Easter, is customary to sacrifice a Sheep lamb, preparing of its meat *drob de miel* and *steak* roast lamb with thyme, as dessert being served *matzopască* cu brânză and *cozonac* *cozonac* cu nucă. "Bucatarie romaneasca – Cultura si retete – Articole". Gastronomie.ele.ro. . Retrieved 2011-08-29. Notes References External links Country Profile from BBC News Romania entry at The World Factbook Romania information from the United States Department of State Portals to the World from the United States Library of Congress Romania at UCB Libraries GovPubs Romania at the Open Directory Project Wikimedia Atlas of Romania Geographic data related to Romania at OpenStreetMap Key Development Forecasts for Romania from International Futures Romanian Law and Miscellaneous – English Government Chief of State and Cabinet Members Romanian Government Romanian Presidency Romanian Parliament The Constitutional Court Of Romania Culture and history links Treasures of the national library of Romania Historic Houses of Romania Travel Romania travel guide from Wikitravel Romanian Tourism Website – Attractions and Travel Info Official Romanian Tourism Website Photos from Romania

Romanian language

Romanian	
Daco-Romanian limba română	
Pronunciation	Romanian pronunciation: [roˈminə]
Spoken natively in	Romania, Moldova, <i>Transnistria</i> (Disputed region) Minority in: Israel, Serbia, Ukraine, Hungary
Native speakers	23,351,100 ^[1] (2009) Second language: circa 4 million ^[2]
Language family	Indo-European <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Italic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern Romance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romanian
Early forms:	Proto-Romanian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romanian
Dialects	Aromanian Megleno-Romanian Istro-Romanian
Writing system	Latin (Romanian alphabet)
Official status	
Official language in	 Romania  Moldova ^[3]  Vojvodina (Serbia)  European Union
Recognised minority language in	 Serbia  Ukraine
Regulated by	Academia Română, Academy of Sciences of Moldova
Language codes	
ISO 639-1	ro
ISO 639-2	rum (B) ron (T)
ISO 639-3	ron
Linguasphere	51-AAD-c (varieties: 51-AAD-ca to -ck)



Romanian (or **Daco-Romanian**; obsolete spellings **Rumanian**, **Roumanian**; self-designation: *română*, *limba română* Romanian pronunciation: [ˈlimba roˈmɨnə] (listen[ⓘ]) ("the Romanian language") or *românește* (lit. "in Romanian") is a Romance language spoken by around 24 million people as a native language, primarily in Romania and Moldova, and by another 4 million people as a second language^{[4][5]}. It has official status in Romania, Republic of Moldova, the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia and in the autonomous Mount Athos in Greece. In the Republic of Moldova, besides the term *limba română*, the language is also often called *limba moldovenească* ("Moldovan"); to avoid the political overtones both terms have in that country, a compromise solution has been to call it *limba de stat* ("the state language").

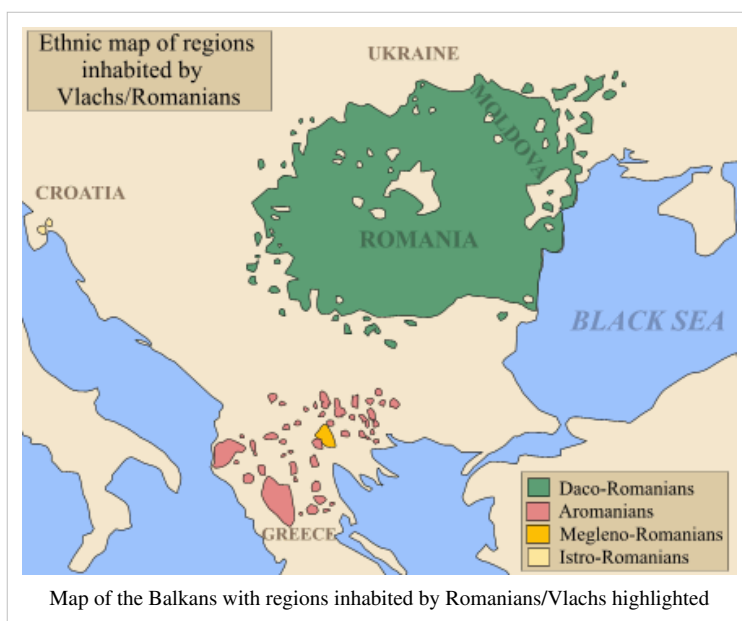
Romanian speakers are scattered across many other countries, notably Italy, Spain, Ukraine, Bulgaria, the United States, Canada, Israel, Russia, Portugal, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany.

History

Prehistory

Further information: Eastern Romance languages, Proto-Romanian, Eastern Romance substratum, Slavic superstratum in Romanian, and Origin of the Romanians

Eastern Romance languages like the other branches of Romance languages descends from Vulgar Latin, adopted in Dacia by a process of Romanization during early centuries AD.^{[6][7]} The Roman Empire withdrew from Dacia in AD 271-5, leaving it to the Goths.^{[8][9]} The history of Eastern Romance between the 3rd century and the development of Proto-Romanian by the 10th century, when the area came under the influence of the Byzantine Empire, is unknown. It is a matter of debate whether Proto-Romanian developed among Romanized people that were left behind in Dacia by the Roman withdrawal or among Latin-speakers in the Balkans South of the Danube.



During the Middle Ages, Romanian became influenced by the Slavic languages^[10] and to some degree by Greek. Romanian remains unattested throughout the Middle Ages, and only enters the historical record in the early 16th century.

Early history

The oldest extant document written in Romanian is Neacșu's letter (1521). The language remains poorly attested during the Early Modern period. Miron Costin, in his *De neamul moldovenilor* (1687), while noting that Moldavians, Wallachians, and the Romanians living in the Hungarian Country have the same origin, says that

although people of Moldavia call themselves *Moldavians*, they name their language *Romanian* (*românește*) instead of *Moldavian* (*moldovenește*).^[11] Dimitrie Cantemir, in his *Descriptio Moldaviae* (Berlin, 1714), points out that the inhabitants of Moldavia, Wallachia and Transylvania spoke the same language. He notes, however, that there are some differences in accent and vocabulary.^[12] Cantemir's work is one of the earliest histories of the language, in which he notes, like Ureche before him, the evolution from Latin and notices the Greek, Turkish and Polish borrowings. Additionally, he introduces the idea that some words must have had Dacian roots. Cantemir also notes that while the idea of a Latin origin of the language was prevalent in his time, other scholars considered it to have derived from Italian.

Modern history

Further information: National awakening of Romania

The first Romanian grammar was published in Vienna in 1780.^[13] Following annexation of Bessarabia by Russia (after 1812), Moldavian was established as an official language in the governmental institutions of Bessarabia, used along with Russian.^[14] The publishing works established by Archbishop Gavril Bănulescu-Bodoni were able to produce books and liturgical works in Moldavian between 1815-1820.^[15]

The linguistic situation in Bessarabia from 1812 to 1918 was the gradual development of bilingualism. Russian continued to develop as the official language of privilege, whereas Romanian remained the principal vernacular.

The period from 1905 to 1917 was one of increasing linguistic conflict, with the re-awakening of Romanian national consciousness. In 1905 and 1906, the Bessarabian *zemstva* asked for the re-introduction of Romanian in schools as a "compulsory language", and the "liberty to teach in the mother language (Romanian language)". At the same time, the first Romanian language newspapers and journals began to appear: *Basarabia* (1906), *Viața Basarabiei* (1907), *Moldovanul* (1907), *Luminătorul* (1908), *Cuvînt moldovenesc* (1913), *Glasul Basarabiei* (1913). From 1913, the synod permitted that "the churches in Bessarabia use the Romanian language". Romanian finally became the official language with the Constitution of 1923.

Historical grammar

Romanian has preserved a part of the Latin declension, but whereas Latin had six cases, from a morphological viewpoint Romanian has only three: the nominative-accusative, the genitive-dative, and marginally the vocative. Romanian nouns also preserve the neuter gender, although instead of functioning as a separate gender with its own forms in adjectives, the Romanian neuter became a mixture of masculine and feminine. The verb morphology of Romanian has shown the same move towards a compound perfect and future tense as the other Romance languages. Compared with the other Romance languages, during its evolution, Romanian simplified the original Latin tense system in extreme ways,^[16] in particular the original Latin absence of sequence of tenses.^[17]

Geographic distribution

Geographic distribution of Romanian

Country	Speakers (%)	Speakers (native)	Country Population
World			
not official:			
World	0.33%	23,351,100	7,035,000,000
Eastern Europe			
Romania	90.65%	17,263,561 ^[18]	19,043,767
Moldova ²	76.4%	2,588,355	3,388,071
Transnistria (Eastern Moldova) ³	31.9%	177,050	555,500
Vojvodina (Serbia)	1.5%	29,512	2,031,992
minority language:			
Ukraine ⁵	0.8%	327,703	48,457,000
not official:			
Timočka Krajina (Serbia) ⁴	8.2%	58,221	712,050
Central and Western Europe			
Italy	1.5%	997,000 ^[19]	60,600,000
Spain	1.7%	895,970 ^[20]	46,661,950
Germany	0.2%	159,222 ^[21]	81,799,600
United Kingdom	0.145%	85,000 ^[22]	58,789,194
Portugal	0.50%	52,898 ^[23]	10,561,614
France	0.07%	50,000 ^[24]	65,350,000
Belgium	0.45%	45,877 ^[25]	10,296,350
Austria	0.45%	36,000 ^[26]	8,032,926
Greece	0.36%	35,295 ^[27]	9,903,268
Cyprus	2.91%	24,376 ^[28]	838,897

Hungary	0.1%	8,480 ^[29]	10,198,315
Bulgaria	0.06%	4,575 ^[30]	7,364,570
Rest of Europe	0.07%	75,000 ^[31]	114,050,000
CIS			
not official:			
Russia ¹	0.12%	159,601 ^[32]	142,856,536
Kazakhstan ¹	0.1%	14,666	14,953,126
Asia			
Israel	3.7%	250,000	6,800,000
UAE	0.1%	5,000	4,106,427
Japan	0.002%	3,000	126,659,683
South Korea	0.0006%	300	50,004,441
The Americas			
not official:			
United States	0.12%	340,000	281,421,906
Canada	0.34%	110,000	32,207,113
Argentina	0.03%	13,000	40,117,096
Venezuela	0.036%	10,000	27,150,095
Brazil	0.002%	4,000	190,732,694
Oceania			
not official:			
Australia	0.09%	10,897 ^[33]	21,507,717
New Zealand	0.08%	3,100	4,027,947
Africa			
not official:			
South Africa	0.007%	3,000	44,819,778
¹ Many are Moldavian who were deported ² Data only for the districts on the right bank of Dniester (without Transnistria and the city of Tighina). In Moldova, it is sometimes referred to as the "Moldovan language" ³ In Transnistria, it is officially called "Moldovan language" and is written in Moldovan Cyrillic alphabet. ⁴ Officially divided into Vlachs and Romanians ⁵ Most in Northern Bukovina and Southern Bessarabia; according to a <i>Moldova Noastră</i> study (based on the latest Ukrainian census). ^[34]			



Romanian is spoken mostly in Southeastern, Central and Eastern Europe, although speakers of the language can be found all over the world, mostly due to emigration of Romanian nationals and the return of immigrants to Romania back to their original countries. Romanian speakers account for 0.5% of the world's population,^[35] and 4% of the Romance-speaking population of the world.^[36]

Romanian is the single official and national language in Romania and Moldova, although it shares the official status at regional level with other languages in the Moldovan autonomies of Gagauzia and Transnistria. Romanian is also an official language of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in Serbia along with five other languages. Romanian minorities are encountered in Serbia (Timok Valley),

Ukraine (Chernivtsi and Odessa oblasts), Hungary (Gyula) and Bulgaria (Vidin). Large immigrant communities are found in Italy, Spain, France, and Portugal.

As of 1995, the largest Romanian-speaking community in the Middle East is found in Israel, where Romanian is spoken by 5% of the population.^{[37][38]} Romanian is also spoken as a second language by people from Arabic-speaking countries who have studied in Romania. It is estimated that almost half a million Middle Eastern Arabs studied in Romania during the 1980s.^[39] Small Romanian-speaking communities are to be found in Kazakhstan and Russia. Romanian is also spoken within communities of Romanian and Moldovan immigrants in the United States, Canada and Australia, although they do not make up a large homogeneous community state-wide.

Legal status

In Romania

According to the Constitution of Romania of 1991, as revised in 2003, Romanian is the official language of the Republic.^[40]

Romania mandates the use of Romanian in official government publications, public education and legal contracts. Advertisements as well as other public messages must bear a translation of foreign words,^[41] while trade signs and logos shall be written predominantly in Romanian.^[42]

The Romanian Language Institute (*Institutul Limbii Române*), established by the Ministry of Education of Romania, promotes Romanian and supports people willing to study the language, working together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Department for Romanians Abroad.^[43]

In Moldova

The Constitution of Moldova names the state language of the country "Moldovan". However, linguists consider it to be largely identical to Romanian. It has been the sole official language since the adoption of the Law on State Language of the Moldavian SSR in 1989.^[44] This law mandates the use of Moldovan in all the political, economical, cultural and social spheres, as well as asserting the existence of a "linguistic Moldo-Romanian identity".^[45] It is also used in schools, mass media, education and in the colloquial speech and writing. Outside the political arena the language is most often called "Romanian". In the breakaway territory of Transnistria, it is co-official with Ukrainian and Russian.

In the 2004 census, out of the 3,383,332 people living in Moldova, 16.5% (558,508) stated Romanian as their native language, whereas 60% stated Moldovan. While 40% of all urban Romanian/Moldovan speakers identified their native tongue as Romanian, in the countryside under 12% of Romanian/Moldovan speakers indicated Romanian as their native language.^[46] However, the group of experts from the international census observation Mission to the Republic of Moldova concluded that the items in the questionnaire dealing with nationality and language proved to

be the most sensitive ones, particularly with reference to the recording of responses to these questions as being "Moldovan" or "Romanian", and therefore it concluded that special care would need to be taken in interpreting them.^[47]

In Vojvodina

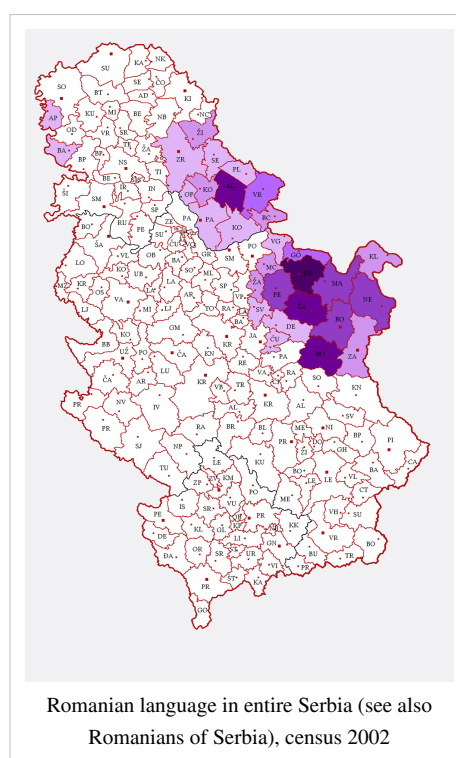
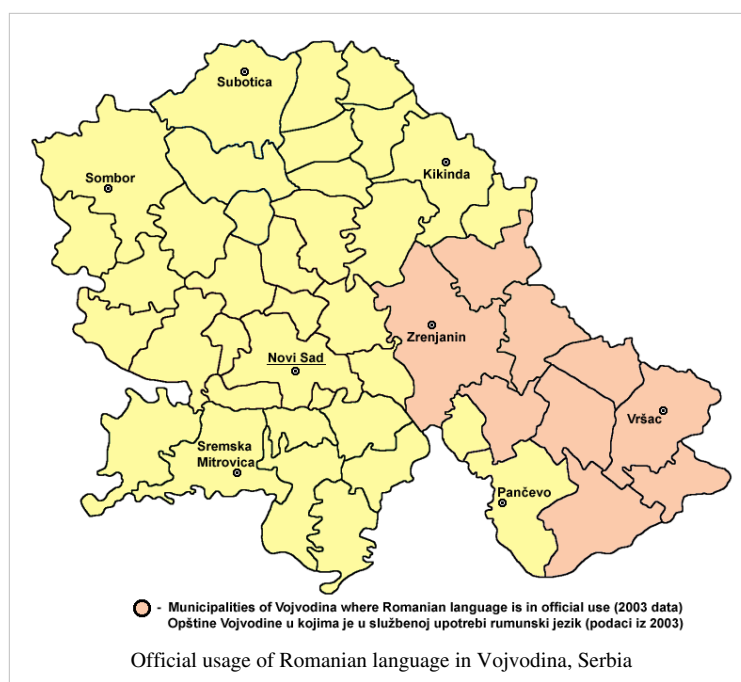
The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia^[48] determines that in the regions of the Republic of Serbia inhabited by national minorities, their own languages and scripts shall be officially used as well, in the manner established by law.

The Statute of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina^[49] determines that, together with the Serbo-Croat language and the Cyrillic script, and the Latin script as stipulated by the law, the Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian and Rusyn languages and their scripts, as well as languages and scripts of other nationalities, shall simultaneously be officially used in the work of the bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, in the manner established by the law. The bodies of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina are: the Assembly, the Executive Council and the Provincial administrative bodies.^[50]

The Romanian language and script are officially used in eight municipalities: Alibunar, Biserica Albă (Serbian: Bela Crkva), Zitiște (Žitište), Zrenjanin (Zrenjanin), Kovăcița (Kovačica), Cuvin (Kovin), Plandiște (Plandište) and Sečanj. In the municipality of Vârșeț (Vršac), Romanian is official only in the villages of Voivodinț (Vojvodinci), Marcovăț (Markovac), Straja (Straža), Jamu Mic (Mali Žam), Srediștea Mică (Malo Središte), Mesici (Mesić), Jablanka, Sălcița (Salčica), Râtișor (Ritiševo), Oreșăț (Orašac) and Coștei (Kuštilj).^[51]

In the 2002 Census, the last carried out in Serbia, 1.5% of Vojvodinians stated Romanian as their native language.

In other countries and organizations

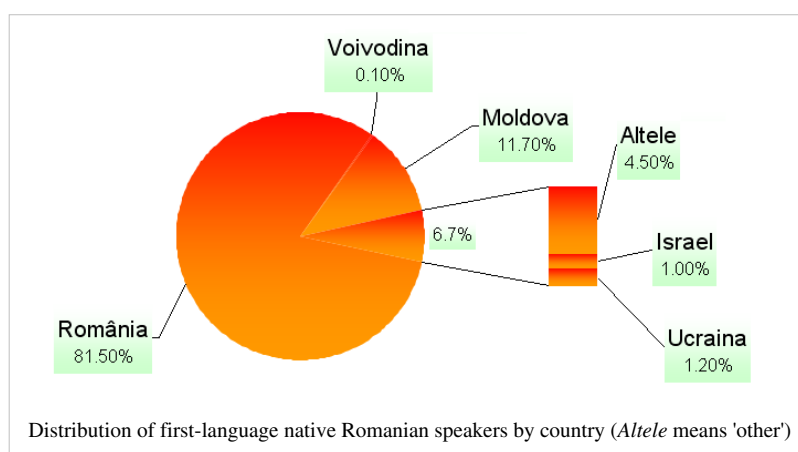


In parts of Ukraine where Romanians constitute a significant share of the local population (districts in Chernivtsi, Odessa and Zakarpattia oblasts) Romanian is being taught in schools as a primary language and there are newspapers, TV, and radio broadcasting in Romanian.^{[52][53]} The University of Chernivtsi trains teachers for Romanian schools in the fields of Romanian philology, mathematics and physics.^[54]

Romanian is an official or administrative language in various communities and organisations, such as the Latin Union and the European Union. Romanian is also one of the five languages in which religious services are performed in the autonomous monastic state of Mount Athos, spoken in the monk communities of Prodromos and Lacu.

As a second and foreign language

Romanian is taught in some areas that have Romanian minority communities, such as Vojvodina in Serbia, Bulgaria, Ukraine and Hungary. The Romanian Cultural Institute (ICR) has since 1992 organised summer training courses in Romanian for language teachers in these countries.^[55] In some of the schools, there are non-Romanian nationals who study Romanian as a foreign language (for example the Nicolae Bălcescu High-school in Gyula, Hungary).



Romanian is taught as a foreign language in various tertiary institutions, mostly in European countries such as Germany, France and Italy, as well as the Netherlands, and elsewhere, like the USA. Overall, it is taught as a foreign language in 43 countries around the world.^[56]

Popular culture

Romanian has become popular in other countries through movies and songs performed in the Romanian language. Examples of recent Romanian acts that had a great success in non-Romanophone countries are the bands O-Zone (which had great success with their #1 single *Dragostea din tei/Numa Numa* across the world), Akcent (popular in the Netherlands, Poland and other European countries), Activ (successful in some Eastern European countries) and Dj Project (popular as clubbing music) as well as high-rated movies like *4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days*, *The Death of Mr. Lazarescu*, *12:08 East of Bucharest* or *California Dreamin'* (all of them with awards at the Cannes Film Festival).

Also some artists wrote songs dedicated to the Romanian language. The multiplatinum pop trio O-Zone (originally from Moldova) released a song called "*Nu mă las de limba noastră*" ('I won't forsake our language'). The final verse of this song, *Eu nu mă las de limba noastră, de limba noastră cea română* is translated in English as *I won't forsake our language, our Romanian language*. Also, the Moldovan musicians Doina and Ion Aldea Teodorovici performed a song entitled "The Romanian language".

Dialects

The term *Romanian* is sometimes^[57] used also in a more general sense, which envelops four languages or dialects: Daco-Romanian, Aromanian, Megleno-Romanian, and Istro-Romanian. The four languages, whose mutual intelligibility is difficult, are the offspring of the Romance varieties spoken both to the north and to south of Danube, before the settlement of the Slavonian tribes south of the river: Daco-Romanian in the north, Aromanian and Megleno-Romanian in the south, whereas Istro-Romanian is believed to be the offspring of an 11th-century migration from Romania. These four are also known as the Eastern Romance languages.

When the term *Romanian* is used in this larger sense, the term *Daco-Romanian* is used for Romanian proper. The origin of the term *Daco-Romanian* can be traced back to the first printed book of Romanian grammar in 1780,^[13] by Samuil Micu and Gheorghe Șincai. There, the Romanian dialect spoken north of the Danube is called *lingua Daco-Romana* to emphasize its origin and its area of use, which includes the former Roman province of Dacia, although it is spoken also south of the Danube, in Dobrudja, Central Serbia and northern Bulgaria.

This article deals with the Romanian (specifically Daco-Romanian) language, and thus only its dialectal variations are discussed here. The differences between the regional varieties are small, limited to regular phonetic changes, few grammar aspects, and lexical particularities. There is a single written standard (literary) Romanian language used by all speakers, regardless of region.

Like most natural languages, Romanian can be regarded as a dialect continuum. The varieties of Romanian are usually called *subdialects* (see reasons for this terminology) and are distinguished primarily by phonetic differences. Romanians themselves speak of the differences as *accents* or *speeches* (in Romanian: *accent* or *grai*).

Depending on the criteria used for classifying these subdialects, fewer or more are found, ranging from 2 to 20, although the most widespread approaches give a number of five subdialects. These are grouped into two main types, southern and northern, further divided as follows:

- The southern type has only one member:
 - the Wallachian subdialect, spoken in the southern part of Romania, in the historical regions of Muntenia, Oltenia and the southern part of Dobruja, but also extending in the southern parts of Transylvania.
- The northern type consists of several subdialects:
 - the Moldavian subdialect, spoken in the historical region of Moldavia, now split among Romania, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine (Bukovina and Bessarabia), as well as northern Dobruja;
 - the Banat subdialect, spoken in the historical region of Banat, including parts of Serbia;
 - a group of finely divided and transition-like Transylvanian varieties, among which two are most often distinguished, those of Crișana and Maramureș.

Over the last century, however, regional accents have been weakened due to mass communication and greater mobility.

Classification

Romanian is a Romance language, belonging to the Italic branch of the Indo-European language family, having much in common with languages such as French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

However, the languages closest to Romanian are the other Eastern Romance languages, spoken south of Danube:

Aromanian/Macedo-Romanian, Megleno-Romanian and Istro-Romanian, which are frequently

classified as dialects of Romanian. An alternative name for Romanian used by linguists to disambiguate with the other Eastern Romance languages is "Daco-Romanian", referring to the area where it is spoken (which corresponds roughly to the onetime Roman province of Dacia).

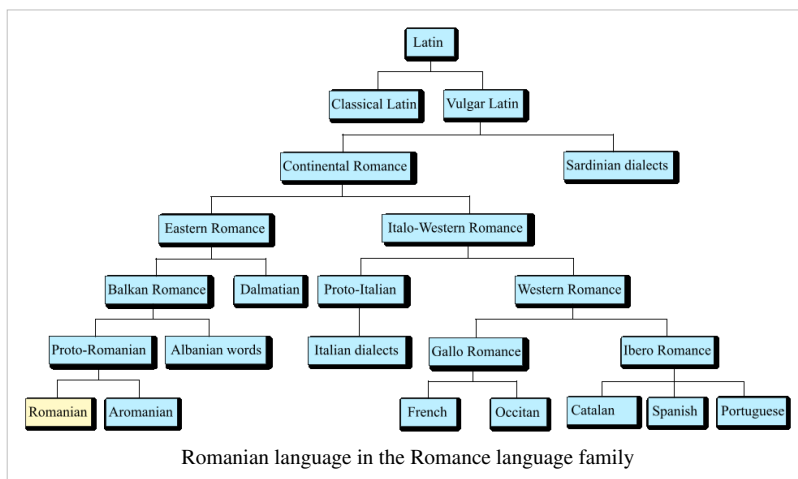
Compared with the other Romance languages, the closest relative of Romanian is Italian; the two languages show a limited degree of asymmetrical mutual intelligibility, especially in their cultivated forms: speakers of Romanian seem to understand Italian more easily than the other way around. Romanian has obvious grammatical and lexical similarities with French, Catalan, Spanish and Portuguese, with a high phonological similarity with Portuguese in particular; however, it is not mutually intelligible with them to any practical extent. Romanian speakers will usually need some formal study of basic grammar and vocabulary before being able to understand more than individual words and simple sentences. The same is true for speakers of these languages trying to understand Romanian.

While Romanian language structure is the closest to Latin, studies have shown that Romanian vocabulary has had a greater share of foreign influence than some other Romance languages such as Italian. A study done by Italian-American linguist Mario Pei in 1949, which analyzed the evolutionary degree of languages in comparison to their inheritance language (in the case of Romance languages to Latin comparing phonology, inflection, discourse, syntax, vocabulary, and intonation) revealed the following percentages (the higher the percentage, the greater the distance from Latin).^[58]

- Sardinian: 8%;
- Italian: 12%;
- Spanish: 20%;
- Romanian: 23.5%;
- Occitan: 25%;
- Portuguese: 31%;
- French: 44%.

The lexical similarity of Romanian with Italian has been estimated at 77%, followed by French at 75%, Sardinian 74%, Catalan 73%, Spanish 71%, Portuguese, and Rhaeto-Romance at 72%.

In modern times Romanian vocabulary has been strongly influenced by French, Italian and other languages.



Contacts with other languages

Dacian language

The Dacian language was an Indo-European language spoken by the ancient Dacians, mostly north of the Danube river but also in Moesia and other regions south of the Danube. It may have been the first language to influence the Latin spoken in Dacia, but little is known about it. Dacian is usually considered to have been a Northern branch of the Thracian language, and like Thracian, Dacian was a satem language. About 300 words found only in Romanian or with a cognate in the Albanian language may be inherited from Dacian (for example: *barză* "stork", *balaur* "dragon", *mal* "shore", *brânză* "cheese"). Some of these possibly Dacian words are related to pastoral life (for example, *brânză* "cheese"). Some linguists and historians have asserted that Albanians are Dacians who were not Romanized and migrated southward.^[59]

A different view is that these non-Latin words with Albanian cognates are not necessarily Dacian, but rather were brought into the territory that is modern Romania by Romance-speaking shepherds migrating north from Albania, Serbia, and northern Greece who became the Romanian people.^[60]

Balkan language area

While most of Romanian grammar and morphology are based on Latin, there are some features that are shared only with other languages of the Balkans and not found in other Romance languages. Nonetheless, Romanian together with Greek and Romani present the lowest "factor of Balkanization" among the languages common included in this sprachbund.^[61]

The languages of the Balkan language area belong to individual branches of the Indo-European language family: Bulgarian, Macedonian and Albanian, and in some cases Greek and Serbian. The shared features include a suffixed definite article, the syncretism of genitive and dative case and the formation of the future and the alternation of infinitive with subjunctive constructions.

Slavic languages

The Slavic influences on Romanian are especially noticeable and can be observed at all linguistic levels: lexis, phonetics, morphology and syntax. About 14% of Romanian words are of Slavic origin. This is due to the migration of Slavic tribes who traversed the territory of present-day Romania during the early evolution of the language. This process of the introduction of Slavic in Dacia was similar to the appearance of various Germanic dialects in the Western Roman Empire, where Gallic Latin and Northern Italian dialects became strongly germanized. However, due to the lower Romance-speaking populace in the East, Slavic remained spoken for much longer and did not die out immediately.

Other influences

Even before the 19th century, Romanian came in contact with several other languages. Some notable examples include:

- Greek: *folos* < *ófelos* "use", *buzunar* < *buzunára* "pocket", *proaspăt* < *prósfatos* "fresh", *cutie* < *cution* "box"
- Hungarian: *a cheltui* < *költeni* "to spend", *a făgădui* < *fogadni* "to promise", *a mântui* < *menteni* "to save" and maybe *oraș* < *város* "city" (though there are problems with regarding this as a direct borrowing; one would have expected Romanian **veras*.^[62])
- Turkish: *cafea* < *kahve* "coffee", *papuc* < *papuș* "slipper", *ciorbă* < *çorba* "wholemeal soup, sour soup", *bacșiș* < *bahşıș* "tip"
- German: *cartof* < *Kartoffel* "potato", *bere* < *Bier* "beer", *șurub* < *Schraube* "screw", *turn* < *Turm* "tower", *ramă* < *Rahmen* "frame", *muștiuc* < *Mundstück* "mouth piece", *bormașină* < *Bohrmaschine* "drilling machine", *cremșnit* < *Kremschnitte* "cream slice", *șvaițer* < *Schweizer* "Swiss cheese", *șlep* < *Schleppkahn* "barge", *șpriț* < *Spritzer* "wine with soda water", *abțibild* < *Abziehbild* "decal picture", *șnițel* < *Schnitzel* "cutlet", *șuncă* < dialectal

Schunke (*Schinken*) "ham", *punct* < *Punkt* "point", *maistru* < *Meister* "master", *rundă* < *Runde* "round". During the Austrian administration in Banat, Transylvania, and Bukovina, a large number of words were borrowed from Austrian German, in particular in fields such as the military, administration, social welfare, economy, etc.^[63]

Later on German terms have been taken out of science and technics, like: *șină* < *Schiene* "rail", *știft* < *Stift* "peg", *liță* < *Litze* "braid", *șindrilă* < *Schindel* "shingle", *ștanță* < *Stanze* "punch", *șaiță* < *Scheibe* "washer", *ștangă* < *Stange* "crossbar", *țiglă* < *Ziegel* "tile", et al.

- Romany, the Romanian Roma have provided several words to Romanian slang: *mișto* "good, beautiful" < *mišto*,^[64] *gagică* < *gadji* "girl" (*slang*)

French and Italian words

Since the 19th century, many modern words were borrowed from the other Romance languages, especially from French and Italian (for example: *birou* "desk, office", *avion* "airplane", *exploata* "exploit"). It was estimated that about 38% of the number of words in Romanian are of French and/or Italian origin (in many cases both languages); and adding this to the words that were inherited from Latin, about 75%-85% of Romanian words can be traced to Latin. The use of these Romanianized French and Italian loanwords has tended to increase at the expense of Slavic loanwords, many of which have become rare or fallen out of use. As second or third languages, French and Italian themselves are better known in Romania than in Romania's neighbors. Along with the switch to the Latin alphabet in Moldova, the re-latinization of the vocabulary has tended to reinforce the Latin character of the language.

In the process of lexical modernization, many of the words already existing as Latin direct heritage, as a part of its core or *popular* vocabulary, have been doubled by words borrowed from other Romance languages, thus forming a further and more modern and literary lexical layer. Typically, the *popular* word is a noun and the borrowed word an adjective. Some examples:

Latin	Romanian direct Latin heritage	Romanian neologism
<i>agilis</i> (quick)	<i>ager</i> (astute)	<i>agil</i> (it.< <i>agile</i> , fr.< <i>agile</i>) (agile)
<i>aqua</i> (water)	<i>apă</i> (water)	<i>acvatic</i> (it. < <i>acquatico</i> , fr.< <i>aquatique</i>) (aquatic)
<i>dens, dentem</i> (tooth)	<i>dinte</i> (tooth)	<i>dentist</i> (it.< <i>dentista</i> , fr.< <i>dentiste</i>) (dentist)
<i>directus</i> (straight)	<i>drept</i> (straight, right)	<i>direct</i> (it.< <i>diretto</i> , fr.< <i>direct</i>) (direct)
<i>frigus</i> (cold)	<i>frig</i> (cold - noun)	<i>frigid</i> (it.< <i>frigido</i> , fr.< <i>frigide</i>) (frigid)
<i>rapidus</i> (quick)	<i>repede</i> (quick)	<i>rapid</i> (it.< <i>rapido</i> , fr.< <i>rapide</i>) (quick)

In the 20th century, an increasing number of English words have been borrowed (such as: *gem* < jam; *interviu* < interview; *meci* < match; *manager* < manager; *fotbal* < football; *sandviș* < sandwich; *bișniță* < business; *ciungă* < chewing gum; *chec* < cake). These words are assigned grammatical gender in Romanian and handled according to Romanian rules; thus "the manager" is *managerul*.

Both the English word pastrami and the dish, originate from the Romanian delicacy *pastramă*.

Grammar

Romanian nouns are characterized by gender (feminine, masculine, and neuter), and declined by number (singular and plural) and case (nominative/accusative, dative/genitive and vocative). The articles, as well as most adjectives and pronouns, agree in gender, number and case with the noun they reference.

Romanian is the only Romance language where definite articles are *enclitic*: that is, attached to the end of the noun (as in Scandinavian, Bulgarian and Macedonian), instead of in front (*proclitic*). They were formed, as in other Romance languages, from the Latin demonstrative pronouns.

As in all Romance languages, Romanian verbs are highly inflected for person, number, tense, mood, voice. The usual word order in sentences is SVO (Subject - Verb - Object). Romanian has four verbal conjugations which further split into ten conjugation patterns. Verbs can be put in five moods that are inflected for the person (indicative, conditional/optative, imperative, subjunctive, and presumptive) and four impersonal moods (infinitive, gerund, supine, and participle).

Phonology

Romanian has seven vowels; the more "exotic" ones are /ɨ/, /ə/ (also in stressed positions), and the diphthongs /ɛa/ and /ɔa/. Additionally, /ø/ and /y/ may appear in some borrowed words. There are also twenty-two consonants. The two approximants /j/ and /w/ can appear before or after any vowel, creating a large number of glide-vowel sequences which are, strictly speaking, not diphthongs.

In final positions after consonants, a short /i/ can be deleted, surfacing only as the palatalization of the preceding consonant (e.g. [mʲ]). Similarly, a deleted /u/ may prompt labialization of a preceding consonant, though this has ceased to carry any morphological meaning.

Phonetic changes

Owing to its isolation from the other Romance languages, the phonetic evolution of Romanian was quite different, but does share a few changes with Italian, such as [kl] > [kj] (Lat. **clarus** > Rom. **chiar**, Ital. **chiaro**, Lat. **clamare** > Rom. **chema**, Ital. **chiamare**) and [gl] > [gj] (Lat. ***glacia** (*glacies*) > Rom. **gheață**, Ital. **ghiaccia**, **ghiaccio**, Lat. ***ungla** (*ungula*) > Rom. **unghie**, Ital. **unghia**); another similarity with Italian is the change from [ce] or [ci] to [tʃe] or [tʃi] (Lat. **pax**, **pacem** > Rom. and Ital. **pace**, Lat. **dulcem** > Rom. **dulce**, Ital. **dolce**, Lat. **circus** > Rom. **cerc**, Ital. **cercu**) and [ge] or [gi] to [dʒe] or [dʒi] (Lat. **gelu** > Rom. **ger**, Ital. **gelo**, Lat. **marginem** > Rom. and Ital. **margin**, Lat. **gemere** > Rom. **geme**, Ital. **gemere**). There are also a few changes shared with Dalmatian, such as /gn/ (probably phonetically [ɲn]) > [mn] (Lat. **cognatus** > Rom. **cumnat**, Dalm. **comnut**) and /ks/ > [ps] in some situations (Lat. **coxa** > Rom. **coapsă**, Dalm. **copsa**).

Among the notable phonetic changes are:

- diphthongization of e and o
 - Lat. **cera** → Rom. **ceară** (wax)
 - Lat. **sole** → Rom. **soare** (sun)
- iotation [e] → [ie] in the beginning of the word
 - Lat. **herba** → Rom. **iarbă** (grass, herb)
- velar [k ɡ] → labial [p b m] before alveolar consonants and [w] (eg. **ngu** → **mb**):
 - Lat. **octo** → Rom. **opt** (eight)
 - Lat. **lingua** → Rom. **limbă** (tongue, language)
 - Lat. **signum** → Rom. **semn** (sign)
 - Lat. **coxa** → Rom. **coapsă** (thigh)
- rhotacism [l] → [r] between vowels

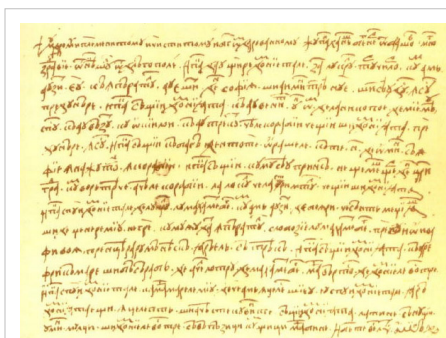
- Lat. **caelum** → Rom. **cer** (sky)
- Alveolars [d t] palatalized to [(d)z] [ts] when before short [e] or long [i:]
 - Lat. **deus** → Rom. **zeu** (god)
 - Lat. **tenem** → Rom. **ține** (hold)

On the other hand, it (along with French) has *lost* /kw/ (**qu**) sound before /a/ from original Latin, turning it either into /p/ (Lat. **quattuor** → Rom. *patru*, "four"; cf. It. *quattro*) or /k/ (Lat. **quando** → Rom. *când*, "when"; Lat. **quale** → Rom. *care*, "which").

Writing system

The first written record of a Romance language spoken in the Middle Ages in the Balkans was written by the Byzantine chronicler Theophanes Confessor in the 6th century about a military expedition against the Avars from 587, when a Vlach muleteer accompanying the Byzantine army noticed that the load was falling from one of the animals and shouted to a companion *Torna, torna fratre* (meaning "Return, return brother!").

The oldest written text in Romanian is a letter from late June 1521, in which Neacșu of Câmpulung wrote to the mayor of Brașov about an imminent attack of the Turks. It was written using the Cyrillic alphabet, like most early Romanian writings. The earliest writing in Latin script was a late 16th century Transylvanian text which was written with the Hungarian alphabet conventions.



Neacșu's letter is the oldest surviving document written in Romanian

ТѢТЛА НОСТРА, КЪРІА ЕЩІ А ТІРІА, СФІЦАСКАСЕ НЪМЕА ТАЗ: Біе
 АПЪРЪЦІАТА: ФІЕ БОА ГЪ, ПРЕ КЪМА АЧІРІА, ШІ ПРЕ ПАМЪНТА. ПЪННІ НОАСТРА
 ЧЪ РЕ ПОАТЕ ЗНАЕА, ДАНЕШ НОАШ АСТАЗН: ШІ НЕ ЁРТА НОАШ АТОРІА
 НОАСТРЕ ПРЕ КЪМА ШІ НОШ ЁРТАМА АТОРННІАУРА НОШІА: ШІ НЪ НЕ АШЕ
 ПРЕ НОШ А НСПІТА, ЧІ НЕ ІЗБАВІЦЕ ДЕ ТІАА РАЗ. КЪ АТА АСЕ АПЪРЪЦІА, ШІ
 ПЪТЪРЪ, ШІ МЪРІРЪ АВЕЧІ, АМІНА.

A sample of Romanian written in the Romanian Cyrillic alphabet, which was still in use in the early 19th century

In the late 18th century, Transylvanian scholars noted the Latin origin of Romanian and adapted the Latin alphabet to the Romanian language, using some orthographic rules from Italian, recognized as Romanian's closest relative. The Cyrillic alphabet remained in (gradually decreasing) use until 1860, when Romanian writing was first officially regulated.

In the Soviet Republic of Moldova, a special version of the Cyrillic alphabet derived from the Russian version was used, until 1989, when Romanian language, spoken there, has officially returned to the Romanian Latin alphabet.

Romanian alphabet

The Romanian alphabet is as follows:

Uppercase letters																														
A	Ă	Â	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	Î	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	Ș	T	Ț	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
Lowercase letters																														
a	ă	â	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	î	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	ș	t	ț	u	v	w	x	y	z
Phoneme																														
/a/	/ə/	/i/	/b/	/k/	/d/	/e/,/e̞/ /je/	/f/	/g/	/h/, /d͡ʒ/(mute)	/i/,/j/ /i/	/i/	/ʒ/	/k/	/l/	/m/	/n/	/o/, /ɔ̞/	/p/	/k/	/r/	/s/	/ʃ/	/t/	/t͡s/	/u/	/v/	/v/, /w/	/ks/ /gz/	/j/, /i/	/z/

K, Q, W and Y, not part of the native alphabet, were officially introduced in the Romanian alphabet in 1982 and are mostly used to write loanwords like *kilogram*, *quasar*, *watt*, and *yoga*.

The Romanian alphabet is based on the Latin script with five additional letters Ă, Â, Î, Ș, Ț. Formerly, there were as many as 12 additional letters, but some of them were abolished in subsequent reforms. Also, until the early 20th century, a short vowel marker was used.

Today the Romanian alphabet is largely phonemic. However, the letters *â* and *î* both represent the same close central unrounded vowel /ɨ/. *Â* is used only inside words; *î* is used at the beginning or the end of single words and in the middle of compound words. Another exception from a completely phonetic writing system is the fact that vowels and their respective semivowels are not distinguished in writing. In dictionaries the distinction is marked by separating the entry word into syllables for words containing a hiatus.

Stressed vowels also are not marked in writing, except very rarely in cases where by misplacing the stress a word might change its meaning and if the meaning is not obvious from the context. For example *trei copii* means "three children" while *trei copii* means "three copies".

Pronunciation

- h* is not silent like in other Romance languages such as Spanish and French, but represents the phoneme /h/, except in the digraphs *ch* /k/ and *gh* /g/ (see below)
- j* represents /ɜ/, as in French or Portuguese (the sound spelled with *s* in the English words 'vision, pleasure, treasure').
- There are two letters with a comma below, Ș and Ț, which represent the sounds /ʃ/ and /ts/. However, the allographs with a cedilla instead of a comma, ș and ț, became widespread when pre-Unicode and early Unicode character sets did not include the standard form.
- A final orthographical *i* after a consonant often represents the palatalization of the consonant (e. g. *lup* /lup/ "wolf" vs. *lupi* /lupʲ/ "wolves") -- it is *not* pronounced like Italian *lupi* (which also means "wolves"), and is indeed an example of the Slavic influence on Romanian.
- ă represents the schwa, /ə/.
- î and â both represent the sound /ɨ/. In rapid speech (for example in the name of the country) the *â* sound may sound similar to a casual listener to a short schwa sound but careful speakers will distinguish the sound. The nearest equivalent is the vowel in the last syllable of the word *roses* for some English speakers.
- The letter *e* generally represents the mid front unrounded vowel [e], somewhat like in the English word *set*. However, the letter *e* is pronounced as *ie* [je] ([j] sounds like 'y' in 'you') when it is the first letter of any form of the verb *a fi* "to be", or of a personal pronoun, for instance *este* /jest/ "is" and *el* /jel/ "he".^{[65][66]} This addition of the semivowel /j/ does not occur in more recent loans and their derivatives, such as *eră* "era", *electric* "electric" etc. Some words (such as *iepure* "hare", formerly spelled *epure*) are now written with the initial *i* to indicate the semivowel.
- x* represents either the phoneme /ks/ as in *expresie* = expression, or /gz/ as in *exemplu* = example, as in English.

- As in Italian, the letters *c* and *g* represent the affricates /tʃ/ and /dʒ/ before *i* and *e*, and /k/ and /g/ elsewhere. When /k/ and /g/ are followed by vowels /e/ and /i/ (or their corresponding semivowels or the final /ɨ/) the digraphs *ch* and *gh* are used instead of *c* and *g*, as shown in the table below.

Group	Phoneme	Pronunciation	Examples
ce, ci	/tʃ/	<i>ch</i> in chest, cheek	<i>cerc</i> (circle), <i>cine</i> (who), <i>cercel</i> (earring), <i>cină</i> (dinner), <i>ciocan</i> (hammer)
che, chi	/k/	<i>k</i> in kettle, kiss	<i>chemare</i> (call), <i>chimie</i> (chemistry), <i>chimen</i> (caraway), <i>chinez</i> (Chinese), <i>ureche</i> (ear)
ge, gi	/dʒ/	<i>j</i> in jelly, jigsaw	<i>ger</i> (frost), <i>gimnast</i> (gymnast), <i>gem</i> (jam), <i>girafă</i> (giraffe), <i>geantă</i> (bag)
ghe, ghi	/g/	<i>g</i> in get, give	<i>ghețar</i> (glacier), <i>ghid</i> (guide), <i>ghindă</i> (acorn), <i>ghidon</i> (handle bar), <i>stingher</i> (lonely)

Punctuation and capitalization

Uses of punctuation peculiar to Romanian are:

- The quotation marks use the Polish format in the format „quote «inside» quote”, that is, „. . .” for a normal quotation, and double angle symbols for a quotation inside a quotation.
- Proper quotations which span multiple paragraphs don't start each paragraph with the quotation marks; one single pair of quotation marks is always used, regardless of how many paragraphs are quoted;
- Dialogues are identified with quotation dashes;
- The Oxford comma before "and" is considered incorrect ("red, yellow and blue" is the proper format);
- Punctuation signs which follow a text in parentheses always follow the final bracket;
- In titles, only the first letter of the first word is capitalized, the rest of the title using sentence capitalization (with all its rules: proper names are capitalized as usual, etc.).
- Names of months and days are not capitalized (*ianuarie* "January", *joi* "Thursday")
- Adjectives derived from proper names are not capitalized (*Germania* "Germany", but *german* "German")

Spelling issues between Romania and Moldova

Prior to 2010, there used to be a minor spelling difference between standard forms of Romanian language used in Romania and the variant (also called Moldovan) used in the Republic of Moldova— the Academy of Sciences of Moldova hadn't switched to the new spelling rules introduced by the Romanian Academy in 1993. In 2000, the Moldovan Academy recommended adopting the spelling rules used in Romania,^[67] and in 2010 the Academy launched a schedule for the transition to the new rules that was completed in 2011 (regarding publications) and is currently under implementation in the educational system (due to be completed within two school years).^[68]

Language sample

English text:

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

(Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Romanian - highlighted words were *directly* derived from Latin:

Toate ființele umane se nasc libere și egale în demnitate și în drepturi. Ele sunt înzestrate cu rațiune și conștiință și trebuie să se comporte unele față de altele în spiritul fraternității.

Contemporary Romanian - highlighted words are French or Italian loanwords:

Toate ființele **umane** se nasc **libere** și **egale** în **demnitate** și în drepturi. Ele sunt înzestrate cu **rațiune** și **conștiință** și trebuie să se **comporte** unele față de altele în **spiritul fraternității**.

Romanian, excluding French and Italian loanwords - highlighted words are Slavic loanwords:

Toate ființele omenești se nasc **slobode** și **deopotrivă** în **destoinicie** și în drepturi. Ele sunt înzestrate cu înțelegere și cuget și **trebuie** să se poarte unele față de altele în **duh** de frățietate.

Romanian, excluding loanwords:

Toate ființele omenești se nasc nesupuse și asemenea în prețuire și în drepturi. Ele sunt înzestrate cu înțelegere și cuget și se cuvine să se poarte unele față de altele după firea frăției.

Notes

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- [2] Latin Union (http://unilat.org/DPEL/Promotion/L_Odysee_des_langues/Roumain/ro)
- [3] The constitution of the Republic of Moldova refers to the country's language as *Moldovan* rather than *Romanian*, though in practice it is often called "Romanian". The introduction of the law concerning the functioning of the languages (September 1989), still effective in the Republic of Moldova according to the Constitution, Parlament.md (<http://www.parlament.md/law/constitution/t7/>) asserts the linguistic identity between the Romanian language and the Moldovan language. IATP.md (<http://www.iatp.md/ladom/downloads/M3.doc>)
- [4] The Latin Union reports 28 million speakers for Romanian, out of whom 24 million are native speakers of the language: *Latin Union - The odyssey of languages*: ro (<http://dpel.unilat.org/DPEL/Creation/Odysee/5.ro.asp>), es (<http://dpel.unilat.org/DPEL/Creation/Odysee/5.es.asp>), fr (<http://dpel.unilat.org/DPEL/Creation/Odysee/5.fr.asp>), it (<http://dpel.unilat.org/DPEL/Creation/Odysee/5.it.asp>), pt (<http://dpel.unilat.org/DPEL/Creation/Odysee/5.pt.asp>); see also Ethnologue report for Romanian (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=ron)
- [5] "Languages Spoken by More Than 10 Million People" (http://encarta.msn.com/media_701500404/Languages_Spoken_by_More_Than_10_Million_People.html). *Languages Spoken by More Than 10 Million People*. Microsoft Encarta 2006.
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- [12] *From Descriptio Moldaviae*: "Valachiae et Transylvaniae incolis eadem est cum Moldavis lingua, pronuntiatio tamen rudior, ut dziur, Vlachus proferet zur, jur, per z polonicum sive j gallicum; Dumnezeu, Deus, val. Dumnezeu: akmu, nunc, val. akuma, aczela hic, val: ahela."
- [13] Samuil Micu, Gheorghe Șincai, *Elementa linguae daco-romanae sive valachicae*, Vienna, 1780.
- [14] **(Russian)** *Charter for the organization of the Bessarabian Oblast*, April 29, 1818, in "Печатается по изданию: Полное собрание законов Российской империи. Собрание первое.", Vol 35. 1818, Sankt Petersburg, 1830, pg. 222-227. Available online at hrono.info (<http://www.hrono.info/dokum/moldav1818.html>)
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- [16] Yves D'hulst, Martine Coene, Larisa Avram, "Syncretic and analytic tenses in Romanian", in *Balkan Syntax and Semantics*, pag. 366: "In its evolution, Romanian simplified the original Latin tense system in extreme ways."
- [17] Yves D'hulst et al., "Syncretic and analytic tenses in Romanian", in *Balkan Syntax and Semantics*, p. 355: "general absence of consecutio temporum."
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- [19] (http://www3.istat.it/salastampa/comunicati/in_calendario/inddemo/20110124_00/testointegrale20110124.pdf) ISTAT - Istituto Nazionale di Statistica *Indicatori demografici* (1.2011)]
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- [31] Departamentul Romanilor de Pretutindeni - Franta. (<http://www.dprp.gov.ro/franta/>)
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- [64] (**Romanian**) (*slang*) Rodica Zafiu, "Mișto și legenda bastonului" (http://www.romlit.ro/mito_i_legenda_bastonului), *România literară*, No. 6, 2009 — There is no doubt among linguists about the Romany etymology of the Romanian word *mișto*, but a fairly widespread folk etymology and urban legend maintains that the German phrase *mit Stock* "with stick" would be its true origin.
- [65] (**Romanian**) Several Romanian dictionaries specify the pronunciation [je] for word-initial letter *e* in some personal pronouns: *el*, *ei*, etc. (<http://dexonline.ro/search.php?cuv=el>) and in some forms of the verb *a fi* (*to be*): *este*, *eram*, etc. (<http://dexonline.ro/search.php?cuv=fi>)
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- http://www.unibuc.ro/uploads_en/29535/42/Paliga_Earliest_Slavic_Borrowings_RSL46_4.pdf

External links

- SAMPA for Romanian (<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/sampa/rom-uni.htm>)
- Romanian Reference Grammar, by Dana Cojocaru, University of Bucharest (183 pages) - 4.6 MB - pdf (http://www.seelrc.org:8080/grammar/pdf/stand_alone_romanian.pdf)
- USA Foreign Service Institute (FSI) Romanian basic course (<http://www.fsi-language-courses.org/Content.php?page=Romanian>)
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- Romanian Swadesh list of basic vocabulary words (http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Romanian_Swadesh_list) (from Wiktionary's Swadesh-list appendix (http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Appendix:Swadesh_lists))

Transylvania

Transylvania is a historical region in the central part of Romania. Bounded on the east and south by the Carpathian mountain range, historical Transylvania extended in the west to the Apuseni Mountains; however, the term sometimes encompasses not only Transylvania proper, but also the historical regions of Crişana, Maramureş, and Romanian part of Banat.

Transylvania is often associated with vampires ^{[1][2][3]} (chiefly due to Bram Stoker's novel *Dracula* and its film adaptations) and the horror genre in general, while the region is also known for the scenic beauty of its Carpathian landscape and its rich history.

Etymology

In Romanian, the region is known as *Ardeal* (pronounced [ar'deal]) or *Transilvania* (pronounced [transil'vani.a]); in Hungarian as *Erdély*; in German: *Siebenbürgen*; and in Turkish as *Transilvanya*; see also other denominations.

- Transylvania was first referred to in a Medieval Latin document in 1075 as *ultra silvam*, meaning "beyond the forest" (*ultra* (+accusative) meaning "beyond" or "on the far side of" and the accusative case of *sylva* (*silvam*) meaning "wood or forest"). Transylvania, with an alternative Latin prepositional prefix, means "on the other side of the woods". Hungarian historians claim that the Medieval Latin form *Ultrasylvania*, later *Transylvania*, was a direct translation from the Hungarian form *Erdő-elve* (rather than the Hungarian being derived from the Latin).^[4] That also was used as an alternative name in Ukrainian Залісся (*Zalissya*).
- The German name *Siebenbürgen* means "seven fortresses", after the seven (ethnic German) Transylvanian Saxons' cities in the region. The order in which they were settled in Transylvania being as follows: Mediasch, 1142; Muhlenbach, 1150; Hermannstadt, the capital, 1160; Clausenburg,^[5] 1178; Schässburg, 1178; Reussmarkt, 1198; Broos, 1200. To these seven were subsequently added two others, Bistritz, 1206; and Kronstadt, 1208.^[6] This is



Location of Transylvania (including Banat, Crişana and Maramureş) in Europe.



Geogel, Romanian Orthodox wooden church



Sirnea in Braşov County

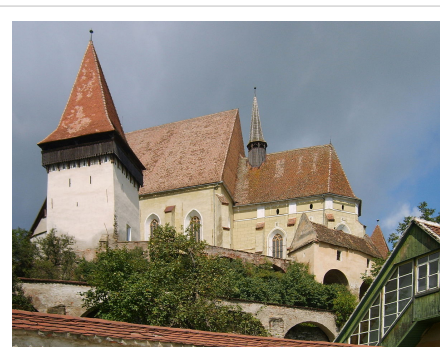
also the origin of the region's name in many other languages, such as the Polish *Siedmiogród* and the Ukrainian Семигород (*Semyhorod*).

- The Hungarian form *Erdély* was first mentioned in the 12th century *Gesta Hungarorum* as "Erdeuleu". *Erdel*, the Turkish equivalent originates from this form, too.
- The first known written occurrence of the Romanian name *Ardeal* appeared in a document in 1432 as *Ardeliu*.^[7]

History

Brief survey

Transylvania has been dominated by several different peoples and countries throughout its history. It was once the nucleus of the Kingdom of Dacia (82 BC–106 AD). In 106 AD the Roman Empire conquered the territory, systematically exploiting its resources. After the Roman legions withdrew in 271 AD, it was overrun by a succession of various tribes, bringing it under the control of the Carpi (Dacian tribe), Visigoths, Huns, Gepids, Avars, Slavs and Bulgarians. It is a subject of dispute whether elements of the mixed Daco–Roman population survived in Transylvania through the Dark Ages (becoming the ancestors of modern Romanians) or the first Vlachs appeared in the area in the 13th century after a northward migration from the Balkan Peninsula.^{[8][9]} There is an ongoing scholarly debate over the ethnicity of Transylvania's population before the Hungarian conquest (see Origin of the Romanians).



Fortified church of Biertan, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Magyars conquered much of Central Europe at the end of the 9th century. According to *Gesta Hungarorum*, Transylvania was ruled by Vlach voivode Gelou after the Hungarians arrived. The Kingdom of Hungary firmly established control over Transylvania in 1003, when king Stephen I, according to legend, defeated the prince named *Gyula*.^{[10][11][12][13]} Between 1003 and 1526, Transylvania was a voivodeship in the Kingdom of Hungary, led by a voivode appointed by the King of Hungary. After the Battle of Mohács in 1526, Transylvania became part of the Kingdom of Janos Szapolyai which, in 1571, was transformed into the Principality of Transylvania ruled primarily by Calvinist Hungarian-speaking princes. However, ethnic groups that lived in this principality also included numerous Romanians and Germans. For most of this period, Transylvania, maintaining its internal autonomy, was under the suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire.

The Habsburgs acquired the territory shortly after the Battle of Vienna in 1683. In 1687, the rulers of Transylvania recognized the suzerainty of the Habsburg emperor Leopold I, and the region was officially attached to the Habsburg Empire. The Habsburgs acknowledged Principality of Transylvania as one of the Lands of the Crown of Saint Stephen,^[14] but the territory of principality was administratively separated^{[15][16]} from Habsburg Hungary^{[17][18][19]} and subjected to the direct rule of the emperor's governors.^[20] In 1699 the Turks legally conceded their loss of Transylvania in the Treaty of Karlowitz; however, some anti-Habsburg elements within the principality submitted to the emperor only in the 1711 Peace of Sathmar. After the Ausgleich of 1867, the Principality of Transylvania was abolished and its territory was absorbed into Transleithania^{[11][13]} or the Hungarian part of the newly established Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Following defeat in World War I, Austria-Hungary disintegrated. The ethnic Romanian majority in Transylvania elected representatives, who then proclaimed Union with Romania on December 1, 1918. The *Proclamation of Union* of Alba Iulia was adopted by the Deputies of the Romanians from Transylvania, and supported one month later by the vote of the Deputies of the Saxons from Transylvania. In 1920, the Treaty of Trianon established a new border between Romania and Hungary, leaving the whole of Transylvania within the Romanian state. Hungary protested against the new border, as over 1,600,000 Hungarian people (who were a minority in Transylvania in

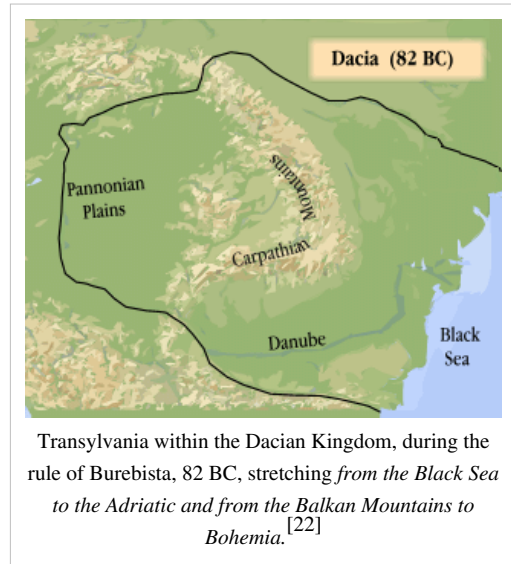
comparison with 2,800,000 Romanians)^[21] were living on the Romanian side of the border, mainly in Székely Land of Eastern Transylvania, and along the newly created border, which was drawn through some areas with a Hungarian majority. In August 1940, in the midst of World War II, Hungary gained about 40% of Transylvania by the Vienna Award, with the aid of Germany and Italy. That territory was assigned back to Romania in 1945 and this was confirmed in the 1947 Paris Peace Treaties.^[11]

Ancient history

In its ancient history, the territory of Transylvania belonged to a variety of empires and states, including the Celts, Scythians, the Kingdom of Dacia and the Roman Empire.

The Kingdom of Dacia was in existence at least as early as the beginning of the 2nd century BC when, Rubobostes, a Dacian king from the territory of present-day Transylvania, undertook control of the Carpathian basin by defeating the Celts who previously held power in the region.

Dacia reached its maximum extent under the rule of Burebista. The area now constituting Transylvania was the political center of the ancient Kingdom of Dacia, where several important fortified cities were built; among them was the capital Sarmizegetusa, located near the current Romanian town of Hunedoara.



Transylvania within the Dacian Kingdom, during the rule of Burebista, 82 BC, stretching from the Black Sea to the Adriatic and from the Balkan Mountains to Bohemia.^[22]



Porta Praetoria at Porolissum, Dacia (modern Transylvania, Romania)

In 101-102 and 105-106 AD, Roman armies under the Emperor Trajan fought a series of military campaigns to subjugate the wealthy Dacian Kingdom. By 106, under Trajan they succeeded in subduing the southern and central regions of Dacia. After the conquest, the Romans seized an enormous amount of wealth (the Dacian Wars were commemorated on Trajan's Column in Rome) and immediately started to exploit the Dacian gold and salt mines located in today's territory of Transylvania. Roman influence was broadened by the construction of modern roads and some existing major cities such as Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa and Dierna (today Orșova) became Roman colonies. The new province was

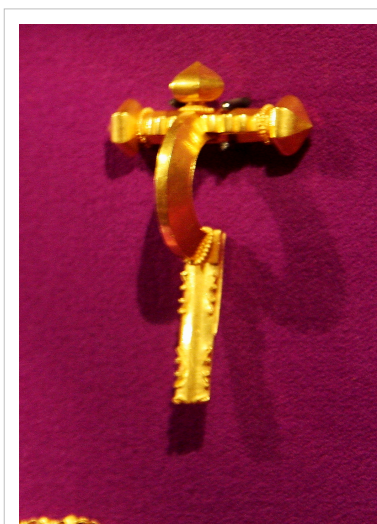
divided under Hadrian: *Dacia Superior*, corresponding roughly to Transylvania and *Dacia Inferior*, similar to the region of South Romania (Wallachia). During Antoninus Pius (138-161) the same territory was included in the provinces *Dacia Porolissensis* (capital at Porolissum) and *Dacia Apulensis* (capital at Apulum, today Alba-Iulia city in Romania). The Romans built new mines, roads and forts in the province. Colonists from other Roman provinces were brought in to settle the land, founding the cities of *Apulum* (now Alba Iulia), *Napoca* (now Cluj-Napoca), Ulpia Traiana Sarmizegetusa and Aquae. During the Roman administration, Christianity entered into the current territory of Transylvania from neighboring Roman provinces where, according to the tradition of the Romanian Orthodox Church, St. Andrew preached.

The Migration period

Due to increasing pressure from the Visigoths,^[23] the Romans abandoned the province during the reign of the Emperor Aurelian in 271. Its subsequent history is controversial. The theory of Daco-Romanian continuity asserts that as across much of Europe, a period of chaos and conquests followed after the collapse of Roman rule. Archeological research shows however that many of the Roman cities continued to exist with additional fortifications. It is also asserted that Christianity survived, based on the large number of artifacts discovered. The theory refers with emphasis to a donarium from Biertan (4th century) having the inscription "*Ego Zenovius votum posui*" (I, Zenovie, offered this). The Migration theory denies that any significant Romanized population continued to exist in the former province after its occupation by the Visigoths. It is asserted that the rare and isolated Latin inscriptions may be attributed to slaves captured by the Goths in the territory of the Roman Empire and even these disappear within a few decades. The Goths themselves were Christians, so Christian artifacts do not prove the continuity of a Romanized population.



The Biertan Donarium - an early Christian votive object of early 4th century. The inscription in Latin reads "*EGO ZENOVIVS VOTVM POSVI*" with approximate translation "*I, Zenovius, offered this gift*"



Gepid artifact from the Apahida royal tomb

The territory fell under the control of the Visigoths and Carpians until they were, in their turn, displaced and subdued by the Huns after 376. After the disintegration of Attila's empire, the Huns were succeeded by the Gepids, who were defeated by the Eurasian Avars who ruled the region until around 800 AD. During the Avar rule, after the 6th century, the region was influenced by massive Slavic immigration.

It is subject of controversy whether elements of the mixed Daco-Roman population survived in Transylvania through the Dark Ages (becoming the ancestors of modern Romanians) or the first Vlachs appeared in the area in the 13th century after a northward migration from the Balkan Peninsula. There is an ongoing scholarly debate over the ethnicity of Transylvania's population before the Hungarian conquest (see Origin of the Romanians).

At the beginning of the 9th century, Transylvania, along with eastern Pannonia, was under the control of the First Bulgarian Empire. After a brief period of Bulgarian rule, the territory was partially under Byzantine control.

There were also periods when autonomous political entities arose under the control of the Byzantine and the Bulgarian Empire.^[24]

Hungarian rule

Further information: Kingdom of Hungary (medieval) and Voivodeship of Transylvania

The Hungarians (Magyars) conquered the area at the end of the 9th century and firmly established their control over it in 1003, when king Stephen I, according to legend, defeated the native prince entitled or named *Gyula*.^{[10][11][12][13]}

According to the theory of Daco-Romanian continuity, Hungary took possession of Transylvania in the 11th century, a territory that probably had a mixed but basically Romanian population.^[25] According to Hungarian historiography, the population of Transylvania at the time of the Hungarian conquest in 895-96 consisted of Slavs and probably some Eurasian Avars. In this view, Romanians did not live in Transylvania in that period and appeared there only in

the 12th century.

After the occupation, the Hungarian crown encouraged immigration in order to counter invasion. Most important was the settlement of the Székelys and the Germans, who came in the 12th century. As a political entity, (Southern) Transylvania is mentioned from the 12th century as a county (Alba) of the Kingdom of Hungary (*M. princeps ultrasilvanus - comes Bellegratae*). Transylvania's seven counties were brought under the voivode's (count of Alba Iulia) rule in 1263. Although Transylvania was part of the Kingdom of Hungary, it retained wide autonomous privileges^[26] and status^[27] and after 1526 became a fully autonomous principality^[27] under nominal Ottoman suzerainty.



Peasants of Hodod, Transylvania

Since medieval times, the population of the region has been a mixture of ethnic Romanians (historically known as Vlachs), Hungarians, the ethnic Hungarian^[28] Székely people, Germans (known as Saxons), Bulgarians (see Șchei, Șcheii Brașovului, Banat Bulgarians), Armenians (especially in Gherla (Armenopolis), Gheorgheni and Târnăveni), Jews and Roma (known as Gypsies or "tatars" - *Tatern* in Transylvanian Saxon or *tătărași* in Romanian).

Between 1003 and 1526, Transylvania was a voivodeship of the Kingdom of Hungary, led by a voivode appointed by the Hungarian King. After the Battle of Mohács in 1526, Transylvania became part of the Eastern Hungarian Kingdom which, in 1571, was transformed into the Principality of Transylvania (1571–1711) ruled primarily by Calvinist Hungarian princes. For most of this period, Transylvania, maintaining its internal autonomy, was under the suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire.

The early 11th century was marked by the conflict between King Stephen I of Hungary and his uncle Gyula, the ruler of Transylvania. The Hungarian ruler was successful in these wars, and Transylvania was incorporated into the Christian Kingdom of Hungary. The Transylvanian Christian bishopric and the comitatus system were organised. By the early 11th century, the ethnic Hungarian Székely were established in southeastern Transylvania^[29] as a border population of ready warriors, and in the 12th and 13th centuries, the areas in the south and northeast were settled by German colonists called Saxons.^[29] Romanians maintained control over a few autonomous regions called 'terrae': Făgăraș, Amlas, Hațeg, Maramureș, Lapus. However, the autonomy was taken by the end of Árpád dynasty in 1301.



Transylvanian Saxons

In 1241–1242, during the Mongol invasion of Europe, Transylvania was among the territories devastated by the Golden Horde. A large portion of the population perished. This was followed by a second Mongol invasion in 1285, led by Nogai Khan. To escape the deprecations, Wallachian (Romanian) settlers moved into the mountainous districts of the Carpathians.^[14] The rulers of the Kingdom of Hungary established programs of colonization in eastern and southern Hungary. Saxon Germans, Székelys, Slavs, and Wallachians settled in the peripheral areas which had suffered so greatly from the Mongol invasion.^[14]



Following this devastation, Transylvania was reorganized according to a class system of Estates, which established privileged groups (*universitates*) with power and influence in economic and political life, as well as along ethnic lines. The first Estate was the lay and ecclesiastic aristocracy, ethnically heterogeneous, but undergoing a process of homogenization around its Hungarian nucleus. The other Estates were Saxons, Székelys and Romanians (or Vlachs - *Universitas Valachorum*), all with an ethnic and ethno-linguistic basis (*Universis nobilibus, Saxonibus, Syculis et Olachis*). The general assembly (*congregatio generalis*) of the four Estates had few genuine legislative powers in Transylvania, but it sometimes took measures regarding order in the country.

After the Decree of Turda (1366), which openly called for action "to expel or to exterminate in this country malefactors belonging to any nation, especially Romanians" in Transylvania,^[30] the only possibility for Romanians to retain or access nobility was through conversion to Roman Catholicism. Some Orthodox Romanian nobles converted, being integrated in the Hungarian nobility, but the most of them declined, thus losing their status and privileges.^[31]

In some regions in the north (Maramureş) and south (Țara Hațegului, Făgăraș, Banat) where Romanians formed a majority of the population,^[32] the Orthodox Romanian ruling class of *nobilis kenezius* (classed as lesser and middle nobility in the Kingdom as a whole) enjoyed a period of prosperity at the end of the 14th and the beginning of the 15th century, reflected in the reconstruction and decoration of some Orthodox churches. A Romanian archbishop is mentioned in 1377 in Transylvania; other Orthodox hierarchs were established in St. Michael's monastery at Feleac, near Cluj and Peri.^[32] Nevertheless, because of the gradual loss of a nobility of their own, Romanians were no longer able to keep their *Universitas Valachorum*.

A key figure to emerge in Transylvania in the first half of the 15th century was John Hunyadi/János Hunyadi^{[33][34]}/Iancu de Hunedoara, a native of Transylvania, born in a family of Romanian origins.^[32] (According to the usage of Hungarian noblemen of the time, John (also Iancu or János) took his family name after his landed estate.^[33]) He was one of the greatest military figures of the time, being Hungarian general, voivode of Transylvania^[33] and then governor of the Kingdom of Hungary^{[32][33]} from 1446 to 1452. He was a Transylvanian noble of Romanian origin^[32] some sources indicating him as the son of Voicu or Vajk, a Romanian boyar from Wallachia.^[35] Hungarian historians claim that his mother was Erzsébet Morzsinay, the daughter of a Hungarian noble family.^[36] His fame was built in the effective wars of defence against the Turkish attacks, waged from 1439. With his private mercenary army, John rapidly rose to the heights of power. His military campaigns against the Ottoman Empire brought him the status of Transylvanian governor in 1446 and papal recognition as the Prince of Transylvania in 1448. Continuing his military activity, he won an important victory at Belgrade in 1456, which halted the Ottomans' advance for several decades, but died shortly afterwards during an epidemic.



After the suppression of the Budai Nagy Antal-revolt in 1437, the political system was based on *Unio Trium Nationum* (*The Union of the Three Nations*). According to the Union, which was explicitly directed against serfs and other peasants, society was ruled by three privileged Estates of the nobility (mostly ethnic Hungarians), the Székelys,

Transylvania became an Ottoman vassal state, where native princes, who paid the Turks tribute, ruled with considerable autonomy.^[38] Austrian and Turkish influences vied for supremacy for nearly two centuries. It is this period of independence and Turkish influence that contributed to Transylvania being seen as exotic in the eyes of Victorians such as Bram Stoker, whose novel *Dracula* was published in 1897.^[39]

Because Transylvania was now beyond the reach of Catholic religious authority, Protestant preaching such as Lutheranism and Calvinism were able to flourish in the region. In 1568, the Edict of Turda proclaimed four religious expressions in Transylvania - Latin Rite or Eastern Rite Catholicism, Lutheranism, Calvinism and Unitarianism (Unitarian Church of Transylvania), while Eastern Orthodoxy, which was the confession of almost the entire ethnic Romanian part of the population, was proclaimed as "tolerated" (*tolerata*).

The Báthory, a Hungarian noble family, began to rule Transylvania as princes under the Ottomans in 1571, and briefly under Habsburg suzerainty until 1600. The latter period of their rule saw a four-sided conflict in Transylvania involving the Transylvanian Báthorys, the emerging Austrian Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Romanian voivodeship (province) of Wallachia. This included almost a year period of Romanian rule after the conquest of the territory by Wallachian voivod Michael the Brave. As he subsequently extended his rule over Moldavia, Michael the Brave unified all the territories where Romanians lived, rebuilding the mainland of the ancient Kingdom of Dacia.^[40] The prince, who managed for a short time in 1600 to rule the three territories that were to be united some three centuries later in modern Romania, begins to be perceived as a unifier only towards the middle of the 19th century. Such an interpretation is completely lacking in the historiography of the 17th century chroniclers, and even in that of the Transylvanian School around 1800. In Michael's time, the concept of the Romanian nation and the desire for unification did not exist,^[41] and the absence of any national element in Michael's politics, holding that Michael's lack of desire to join the principalities' administrations proved his actions were not motivated by any such concept.^[42] Moreover, the princes of Transylvania never developed a Romanian national identity, the majority not being of Daco-Roman descent, according to the American author *George W. White*.^[43]

The Calvinist magnate of Bihar county Stephen Bocskai managed to obtain, through the Treaty of Vienna (June 23, 1606), religious liberty and political autonomy for the region, the restoration of all confiscated estates, the repeal of all "unrighteous" judgments, as well as his own recognition as independent sovereign prince of an enlarged Transylvania. Under Bocskai's successors, most notably Gabriel Bethlen and George I Rákóczi, Transylvania passed through a golden age for many religious movements and for the arts and culture. It became one of the few European States where Roman Catholics, Calvinists, Lutherans and Unitarians lived in peace, although Orthodox Romanians continued to be denied equal recognition.





Stephen Bocskay

This golden age and relative independence of Transylvania ended with the reign of George II Rákóczi. The prince, coveting the Polish crown, allied with Sweden and invaded Poland in spite of the Turkish Porte clearly prohibiting any military action. Rákóczi's defeat in Poland, combined with the subsequent invasions of Transylvania by the Turks and their Crimean Tatar allies, the ensuing loss of territory (most importantly, the loss of the most important Transylvanian stronghold, Oradea) and diminishing manpower led to the complete subordination of Transylvania, which became a powerless vassal of the Ottoman Empire.

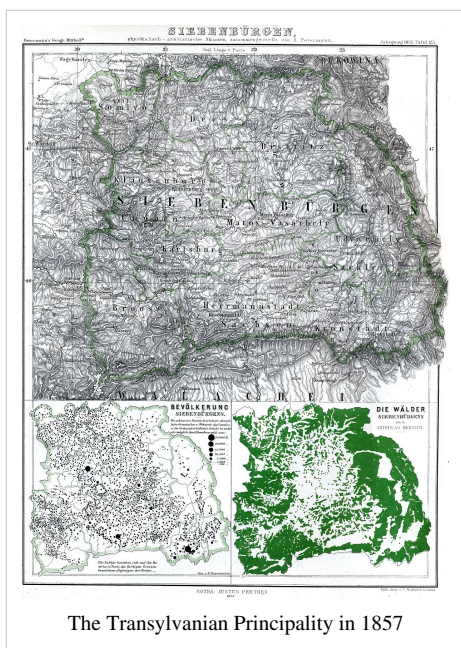
Habsburg rule

The Habsburgs acquired the territory shortly after the Battle of Vienna in 1683. The Habsburgs, however, recognized the Hungarian sovereignty over Transylvania,^[14] while the Transylvanians recognized the suzerainty of the Habsburg emperor Leopold I (1687), and the region was officially attached to the Habsburg Empire, separated in all but name^[15] from Habsburg controlled Hungary^{[17][18]} and subjected to the direct rule of the emperor's governors.^[1] In 1699 the Turks legally conceded their loss of Transylvania in the Treaty of Karlowitz; however, anti-Habsburg elements within the principality only submitted to the emperor in the 1711 Peace of Szatmár. After the Ausgleich of 1867 the region was fully reabsorbed into Hungary^{[11][13]} as a part of the newly established Austro-Hungarian Empire.

After the defeat of the Ottomans at the Battle of Vienna in 1683, the Habsburgs gradually began to impose their rule on the formerly autonomous Transylvania. Apart from strengthening the central government and administration, the Habsburgs also promoted the Roman Catholic Church, both as a uniting force and also as an instrument to reduce the influence of the Protestant nobility. In addition, they tried to persuade Romanian Orthodox clergymen to join the Greek (Byzantine Rite) Catholic Church in union with Rome. As a response to this policy, several peaceful movements of the Romanian Orthodox population advocated freedom of worship for all the Transylvanian population, especially the movements led by Visarion Sarai, Nicolae Oprea Miclăuș and Sofronie of Cioara. Additional Germans settled in the principality under official colonization schemes and a large number of Romanians, fleeing the Turkish rule in their own principalities, also moved in to occupy vacant lands.^[14]



Samuel von Brukenthal



From 1711, the princes of Transylvania were replaced with imperial governors^[1] and in 1765 Transylvania was declared a Grand Principality of Transylvania, further consolidating its special separate status within the Habsburg Empire established by the Diploma Leopoldinum in 1691.^[19] Hungarian historiography sees this as a mere formality.^{[44][45]} Within the Habsburg-controlled Kingdom of Hungary there was a separate administrative Hungary and Transylvania.

The revolutionary year 1848 was marked by a great struggle between the Hungarians, the Romanians and the Habsburg Empire. The Hungarians promised for Romanians the abolition of serfdom for their support against Austria.^[29] The Romanians rejected the offer and instead rose against the Hungarian national state.^[29] Warfare erupted in November with both Romanian and Saxon troops, under Austrian command, battling the Hungarians led by the Polish-born general Józef Bem in Transylvania. He carried out a sweeping offensive through Transylvania, and Avram Iancu managed to retreat to the harsh terrain of the Apuseni Mountains, mounting a guerrilla campaign on Bem's forces. After the intervention by the armies of Tsar Nicholas I of Russia, Bem's army was defeated decisively at the Battle of Timișoara (Temesvár, Hun.) on 9 August 1849.

Having quashed the revolution, Austria imposed a repressive regime on Hungary, ruled Transylvania directly through a military governor and granted citizenship to the Romanians.

The 300-year long special separate status came was terminated by the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, which established the dual monarchy and reincorporated Transylvania into Hungary. On 20 June 1867, the Diet was dissolved by royal decree, and an ordinance abrogated the legislative acts of the Cluj-Napoca provincial assembly.

The department of the interior inherited the responsibilities of the Transylvanian Gubernium, and the government reserved the right to name Transylvania's royal magistrates as well as the Saxon bailiff of the Universitas Saxorum. Hungarian legislation also came to supersede the Austrian code of civil procedure, penal law, commercial law, and regulations for bills of exchange.

The new unity of Austria-Hungary created a process of Magyarization affecting Transylvania's Romanians^[46] and German Saxons.^[47] After the Ausgleich of 1867, when an autonomous government for the Kingdom of Hungary was formed within Austria-Hungary, the importance of Transylvania as a core territory was once again illustrated when Hungarian leaders successfully demanded and secured Transylvania's return to the Hungarian Kingdom. By the 1890s, the Hungarians government began implementing vigorous Magyarization policies in an attempt to integrate the territories of the Hungarian Kingdom. Those Magyarization policies were primarily directed at Transylvania.^[48] In an important sense, Transylvania was the historical breeding ground of Hungarian romantic nationalism. Its Magyar-led anti-Habsburg struggles preceded the popular nationalism that emerged among the Pannonian Magyars in the early 19th century. Even after the revolution of 1848 and the 1867 Ausgleich separating Austria from Hungary, Transylvanian aristocrats continued to exert a high degree of power since Hungary adopted what some historians call an official nationalism.^[49]

Although Romanians formed the majority of Transylvania's population (59%), they had not been awarded legal status as a nation. In 1892 the leaders of the Romanians of Transylvania sent a Memorandum to the Austro-Hungarian Emperor-King Franz Joseph, asking for equal ethnic rights with the Hungarians, and demanding an end to persecutions and Magyarization attempts. Franz Josef forwarded the memorandum to Budapest, and the authors were tried for "homeland betrayal" in May 1894, being sentenced to long prison terms.



The signers of the Transylvanian Memorandum

Clickable Map of the Grand Duchy of Transylvania



Josephinische Landesaufnahme. Sensitive map of the Grand Duchy of Transylvania, 1769-1773. (Click on the desired quadrant)

Union with Romania



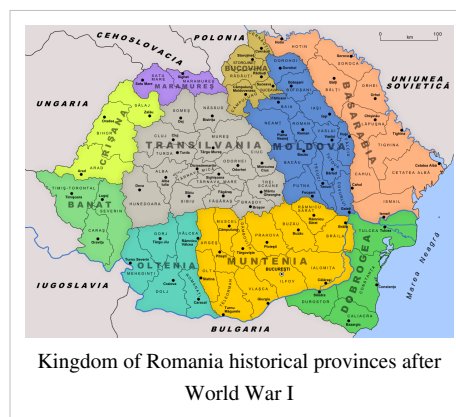
The National Assembly in Alba Iulia (December 1, 1918)

Following defeat in World War I, Austria-Hungary began to disintegrate. The ethnic Romanian majority elected representatives, who then proclaimed Union with the Kingdom of Romania on December 1, 1918. The *Proclamation of Union* of Alba Iulia was adopted by the Deputies of the Romanians from Transylvania, and supported one month later by the vote of the Deputies of the Saxons from Transylvania. In 1920, the Allies confirmed the union in the Treaty of Trianon. Hungary protested as over 1,600,000 Hungarian people^[21] were living in the area in question, mainly in Székely Land of Eastern Transylvania, and along the newly created border, which was partially drawn through areas with compact Hungarian population.

In August 1940, in the midst of World War II, Hungary regained about 40% of Transylvania by the Vienna Award, with the aid of Germany and Italy. The territory, however, was returned to Romania in 1945; this was confirmed in the 1947 Paris Peace Treaties.^[11]

As Austria-Hungary disintegrated at the end of World War I, the nationalities living there proclaimed their independence from the empire. The 1228-member National Assembly of Romanians of Transylvania and Hungary, headed by leaders of Transylvania's Romanian National Party and Social Democratic Party, passed a resolution calling for unification of all Romanians in a single state on 1 December in Alba Iulia.^[50] This was approved by the National Council of the Germans from Transylvania and the Council of the Danube Swabians from the Banat, on 15 December in Mediaş. In response, the Hungarian General Assembly of Cluj reaffirmed the loyalty of Hungarians from Transylvania to Hungary on December 22, 1918. (*See also: Union of Transylvania with Romania*) The Treaty of Versailles placed Transylvania under the sovereignty of Romania, an ally of the Triple Entente, and the Treaty of St. Germain (1919) and the Treaty of Trianon (signed in June 1920) further elaborated the status of Transylvania and defined the new border between the states of Hungary and Romania.^{[51][52]} King Ferdinand I of Romania and Queen Maria of Romania were crowned at Alba Iulia in 1922 as King and Queen of all Romania.

One of the new administration's objectives was to enforce the Romanianization of Transylvania in a social-political fashion, after centuries of Hungarian rule.^[53] The goal was to create a Romanian middle and upper class that would be promoted to assume the role of the former Hungarian ruling elites. The Hungarian language was expunged from administration, a field that it solely occupied before, and all place-names were Romanianized.^[54] About 197,000 Transylvanian Hungarians fled to Hungary between 1918 and 1922,^[55] and a further group of 169,000 emigrated over the remainder of the interwar period.^[54] In 1930, Romanians formed the majority of the Transylvanian population (58.2%, up from 53.8% in 1910), while Magyars (26.7%, down from 31.6% in 1910), Germans (9.8%, down from 10.7% in 1910) and Jews (3.2% in 1930, counted as Magyars in 1910) were minority groups.^[56] The expropriation of the estates of Magyar magnates, the distribution of the lands to the Romanian peasants, and the policy of cultural Romanianization that followed were major causes of friction between Hungary and Romania.^[29]



World War II and Communist Romania

In August 1940, the second Vienna Award granted the Northern Transylvania to Hungary. After the Treaty of Paris (1947), at the end of World War II, the territory was returned to Romania. The post-World War II borders with Hungary, agreed on at the Treaty of Paris, were identical with those set out in 1920.

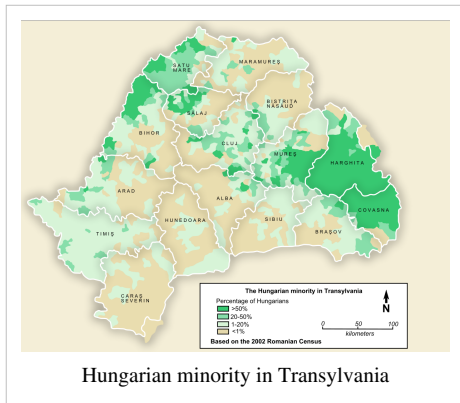
After World War II and especially after the fall of Communism, almost all of the German-speaking population left Transylvania, with most of them settling in Germany.

Recent history (1989 to present)

After the Romanian Revolution of 1989, some ethnic Hungarians began advocating greater autonomy for the Székely Region (the counties of Harghita and Covasna and part of Mureş County) where ethnic Hungarians outnumber ethnic Romanians.^{[57][58]} There have been tensions in Transylvania between Romanians and ethnic Hungarians who wanted autonomy in the 1990s.^{[58][59]} The Hungarians said they were the target of attacks by Romanian politicians and news organizations.^[59] Autonomy advocates claimed the attacks were an attempt to forcibly assimilate the Hungarian minority of 1.43 million people, or 6.6% of the Romanian population (according to the census of 2002). Some ethnic Romanians chided the autonomy advocates because of their refusal to integrate and in some cases for their inability to speak Romanian.^[59]

In 1996 Romania and Hungary signed a Basic Treaty on Understanding, Cooperation, and Good-Neighborliness, aiming to protect and develop the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and religious identity of the Hungarian minority in Romania and the Romanian minority in Hungary^[60] receiving good feedback from US and EU members in the

context of NATO enlargement.^{[61][62]}



In 2003, the Székely National Council was founded - a local Hungarian group with autonomy as its stated goal.^[58] Unlike the Kosovars, Székely pro-autonomy organizations seek autonomy within Romania rather than complete independence, leaving foreign policy and national defense in the hands of the government in Bucharest.^[58]

Ethnic Hungarians in Transylvania have traditionally voted for the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania, a centrist organization with a long record of cooperating with Romanian parties, both in government and in opposition. The more radical Hungarian Civic Party positions itself as an alternative and has advocated more vocally for the autonomy of the Székely region.^[58] The ethnic-Hungarian politician,

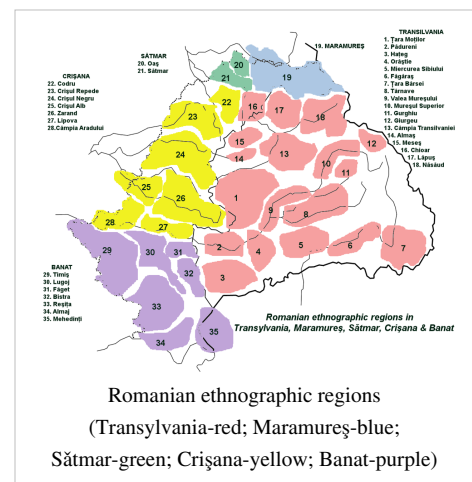
László Tőkés, one of the party's leaders, holds that Romanian and Hungarian authorities should reach an agreement regarding the status of the Hungarian community and the Székely Land.^[63]

However, relations between Romania and Hungary have improved significantly in the 2000s.^[64] The governments of Hungary and Romania held their second annual joint session in 2006. The main objective is convergence of Hungarian and Romanian National Development Plans. In particular they are keen to increase co-operation aimed at improving their absorption capacity of EU funds and to ensure development in line with EU standards. The two countries are also working closely on policies to promote the welfare of ethnic Romanians living in Hungary and ethnic Hungarians in Romania.^[64]

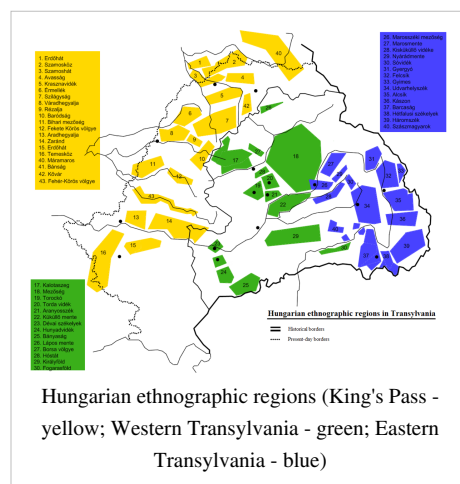
Geography and ethnography

The Transylvanian plateau, 300 to 500 metres (1,000-1,600 feet) high, is drained by the Mureş, Someş, Criş, and Olt rivers, as well as other tributaries of the Danube. This core of historical Transylvania roughly corresponds with nine counties of modern Romania. Other areas to the west and north, which also united with Romania in 1918 (inside the border established by peace treaties in 1919-20), are since that time widely considered part of Transylvania.

- Transylvania proper:
 - Amlaş
 - Țara Bârsei (Burzenland)
 - Chioar
 - Făgăraş
 - Haţeg
 - Kalotaszeg (Țara Călatei)
 - Mărginimea Sibiului
 - The Transylvanian Plain (Câmpia Transilvaniei/Mezőség)
 - Székely Land
 - Țara Moţilor
 - Țara Năsăudului (Nösnerland)
 - Ținutul Pădurenilor
- Banat
- Crişana
 - Țara Zarandului



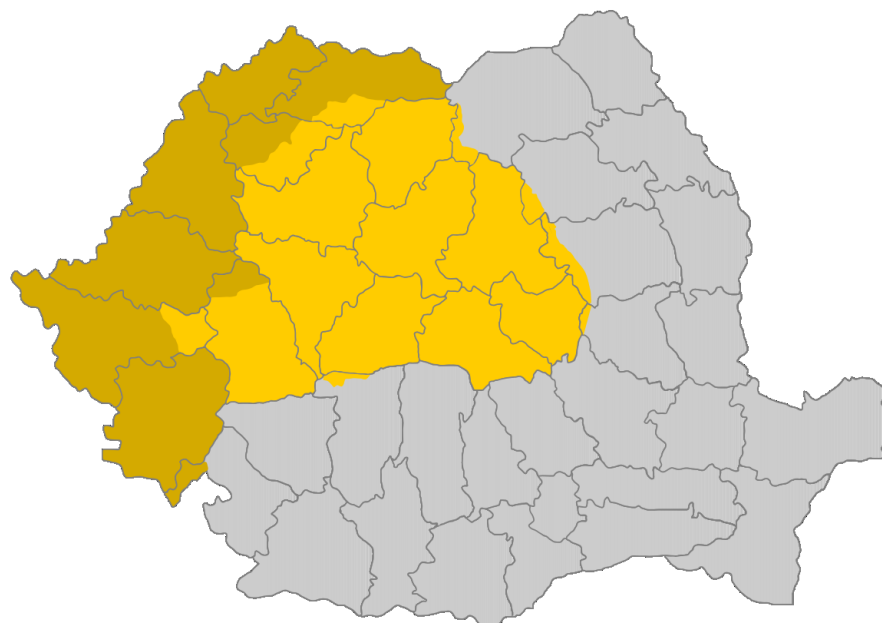
- Maramureș



- Țara Lăpușului
- Țara Oașului

See also *Administrative divisions of the Kingdom of Hungary*. In common reference, the Western border of Transylvania has come to be identified with the present Romanian-Hungarian border, settled in the Treaty of Trianon, although geographically the two are not identical.

Administrative divisions



Bihar
Arad
Timiș
Caraș-Severin
Hunedoara
Satu Mare
Sălaj

Alba
 Sibiu
 Braşov
 Covasna
 Harghita
 Mureş
 Cluj
 Bistriţa-Năsăud
 Maramureş

Light yellow – historical region of Transylvania

Dark yellow – historical regions of Banat, Crişana and Maramureş

Grey – historical regions of Wallachia, Moldavia and Dobruja

The area of the historical Voivodeship is 21,292 sq mi/55,146 km².

The region granted to Romania in 1920 covered 23 counties including nearly 102,200 km² (102,787–103,093 in Hungarian sources and 102,200 in contemporary Romanian documents) now due to the several administrative reorganisations Transylvania covers 16 present-day counties (Romanian: *judeţ*) which include nearly 99,837 km² of central and northwest Romania. The 16 counties are:

- Alba
- Arad
- Bihor
- Bistriţa-Năsăud
- Braşov
- Caraş-Severin
- Cluj
- Covasna
- Harghita
- Hunedoara
- Maramureş
- Mureş
- Sălaj
- Satu Mare
- Sibiu
- Timiş

The most populous cities (as of 2002 census):^[65]

- Cluj-Napoca (317,953)
- Timişoara (317,660)
- Braşov (284,596)
- Oradea (206,614)
- Arad (172,827)
- Sibiu (154,892)
- Târgu Mureş (150,041)
- Baia Mare (137,921)
- Satu Mare (115,142)

Population

Historical population

Official censuses with information on Transylvania's population have been conducted since the 18th century. On May 1, 1784 the Emperor Joseph II called for the first official census of the Habsburg Empire, including Transylvania. The data was published in 1787, and this census showed only the overall population (1,440,986 inhabitants).^[66] Fényes Elek, a 19th century Hungarian statistician, estimated in 1842 that in the population of Transylvania for the years 1830-1840 the majority were 62.3% Romanians and 23.3% Hungarians.^[67]

The first official census in Transylvania that made a distinction between nationalities (distinction made on the basis of mother tongue) was performed by Austro-Hungarian authorities in 1869, distributed among the ethnic groups as follows: Romanians 59.0%, Hungarians 24.9%, Germans 11.9%.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, the Hungarian population of Transylvania increased from 24.9% in 1869 to 31.6%, as indicated in the 1910 Hungarian census. At the same time, the percentage of Romanian population decreased from 59.0% to 53.8% and the percentage of German population decreased from 11.9% to 10.7%, for a total population of 5,262,495. Magyarization policies greatly contributed to this shift.

The percentage of Romanian majority has significantly increased since the union of Transylvania with Romania after World War I in 1918.

Indeed, the proportion of Hungarians in Transylvania is in steep decline as more of the region's inhabitants move into urban areas, where the pressure to assimilate and Romanianize is greater.^[68]

The expropriation of the estates of Magyar magnates, the distribution of the lands to the Romanian peasants, and the policy of cultural Romanianization that followed the Treaty of Trianon were major causes of friction between Hungary and Romania.^[69] Other factors include the emigration of non-Romanian peoples, assimilation and internal migration within Romania (estimates show that between 1945 and 1977, some 630,000 people moved from the Old Kingdom to Transylvania, and 280,000 from Transylvania to the Old Kingdom, most notably to Bucharest).^[70]

Current population

The 2002 Romanian census classified Transylvania as the entire region of Romania west of the Carpathians. This region has a population of 7,221,733, with a large Romanian majority (75.9%). There are also sizeable Hungarian (19.6%), Roma (3.3%), German (0.7%) and Serb (0.1%) communities.^{[71][72]} The ethnic Hungarian population of Transylvania, largely composed of Székely, form a majority in the counties of Covasna and Harghita.

Economy

Transylvania is rich in mineral resources, notably lignite, iron, lead, manganese, gold, copper, natural gas, salt and sulfur.

There are large iron and steel, chemical, and textile industries. Stock raising, agriculture, wine production and fruit growing are important occupations. Timber is another valuable resource.



Ethno-linguistic map of Austria-Hungary, 1910.



Hungarian and Romanian language newspapers published in Cluj.

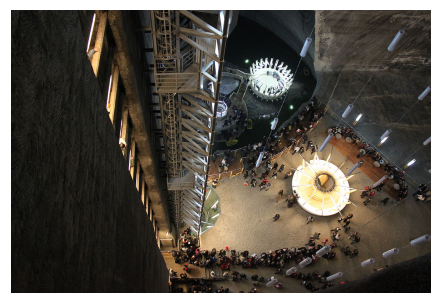
IT, electronics and automotive industries are important in urban and university centers like Cluj-Napoca (Nokia), Timișoara (Alcatel-Lucent, Flextronics and Continental AG), Brașov, Sibiu, Oradea and Arad.

Native brands include: Roman of Brașov (trucks and buses), Azomureș of Târgu Mureș (fertilizers), Terapia of Cluj-Napoca (pharmaceuticals), Banca Transilvania of Cluj-Napoca (finance), Romgaz and Transgaz of Mediaș (natural gas), Jidvei of Alba county (alcoholic beverages), Timișoreana of Timișoara (alcoholic beverages) and others.

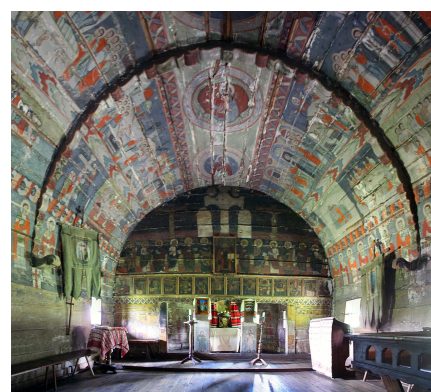
Transylvania accounts for around 35% of Romania's GDP, and has a GDP per capita (PPP) of around \$11,500, around 10% higher than the Romanian average.

Tourist attractions

- Bran Castle, also known as Dracula's Castle
- The medieval cities of Alba Iulia, Cluj-Napoca, Sibiu (European Capital Of Culture in 2007), Târgu Mureș and Sighișoara (UNESCO World Heritage Site and supposed birthplace of Vlad Dracula)
- The city of Brașov and the nearby Poiana Brașov ski resort
- The city of Hunedoara with the 14th century Hunyadi Castle
- The citadel and the Art Nouveau city centre of Oradea
- The Densus Church, the oldest church in Romania in which services are still officiated^[73]
- The Dacian Fortresses of the Orăștie Mountains, including Sarmizegetusa (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- The Maramureș region including:
 - The Merry Cemetery of Săpânța (the only of that kind in the world)
 - The Wooden Churches (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
 - The cities of Baia Mare and Sighetu Marmăției.
 - The villages on the Iza, Mara, and Viseu Valleys.
- The Saxon fortified churches (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Romanian traditions and folk culture, ASTRA National Museum Complex, Sibiu
- Hungarian traditions and folk culture
- The cafe culture,^[74] street theatre and cosmopolitan society of Sibiu, Cluj-Napoca and Timișoara
- The Apuseni Mountains:
 - Țara Moților
 - The Bears Cave, one of the most beautiful caves in Europe^[75]
 - Scarisoara Ice Cave, that has a gigantic and astonishing underground glacier, actually the third largest glacier cave in the world^[75]
- The Rodna Mountains.



Turda salt mine



Interior of the wooden church of Cizer in the Ethnographic Museum of Transylvania.



Fundata in Brașov County

Festivals and events

Film festivals

- ALTER-NATIVE - International Short Film Festival, Târgu-Mureș
- Astra Film Festival, Sibiu
- Comedy Cluj, Cluj-Napoca
- Gay Film Nights, Cluj-Napoca
- Timishort, Timișoara
- Transilvania International Film Festival, Cluj-Napoca
- Lună Plină, - Horror and Phantasy Film Festival, Biertan

Music festivals

- Festivalul Plai, Timișoara
- Golden Stag Festival, Brașov
- Gărâna Jazz Festival, Gărâna
- Peninsula / Félisziget Festival, Târgu-Mureș - Romania's biggest music festival
- Toamna Muzicală Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca
- Transilvania International Guitar Festival, Cluj-Napoca

Others

- Sighișoara Medieval Festival, Sighișoara

Historical coat of arms of Transylvania

The first heraldic representations of Transylvania date from the 16th century. One of the predominant early symbols of Transylvania was the coat of arms of Sibiu city. In 1596 Levinus Hulsius created a coat of arms for the imperial province of Transylvania, consisting of a shield party per fess, with a rising eagle in the upper field and seven hills with towers on top in the lower field. He published it in his work "Chronologia", issued in Nuremberg the same year. The seal from 1597 of Sigismund Báthory, prince of Transylvania, reproduced the new coat of arms with some slight changes: in the upper field the eagle was flanked by a sun and a moon and in the lower field the hills were replaced by simple towers.^[76]

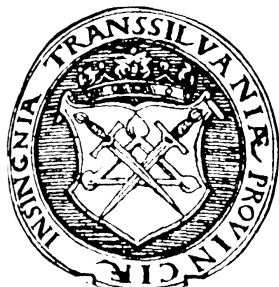
The seal of Michael the Brave from 1600 depicts the territory of the former Dacian kingdom: Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania:^[77]

- The black eagle (Wallachia)
- The auroch head (Moldavia)
- The seven hills (Transylvania).
- Over the hills there were two rampant lions affronts, supporting the trunk of a tree, as a symbol of the reunited Dacian Kingdom.^[77]

The Diet of 1659 codified the representation of the privileged nations in Transylvania's coat of arms. It depicted a black turul on a blue background, representing the Hungarian nobility,^[78] a Sun and the Moon representing the Székelys, and seven red towers on a yellow background representing the seven fortified cities of the Transylvanian Saxons. The red dividing band was originally not part of the coat of arms.



Currently, unlike the counties included in it, the region of Transylvania does not have its own official coat of arms. Nonetheless, the historical coat of arms is currently present in the coat of arms of Romania, alongside the traditional coats of arms of the rest of Romania's historical regions.



Coat of arms of Transylvania in 1550, identical to that of Sibiu city



Coat of arms of Transylvania, created by Levinus Hulsius in 1596



Coat of arms of Sigismund Báthory from 1597, including the arms of Transylvania



Coat of arms of Michael the Brave, ruler of Transylvania, Wallachia and Moldavia, 1600

Gallery



Sarmizegetusa Regia, capital of ancient Dacia



Roman city of Apulum



Densuș Church



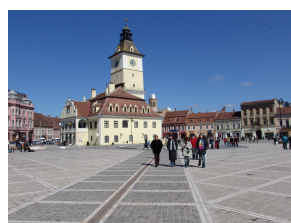
Orthodox Cathedral in Cluj-Napoca



Bran Castle



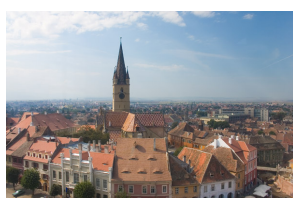
Black Church in Braşov



Braşov Council Square (Piața Sfatului)



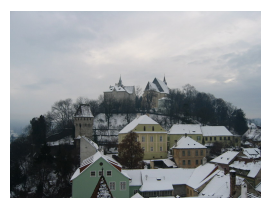
Catholic Church in Cluj-Napoca



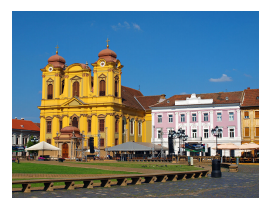
View of Sibiu



Sighișoara clock tower



View of Sighișoara



St. George's Cathedral, Timișoara



Unirii Square, Timișoara

Administrative palace in
Arad

Theatre in Arad

St. Michael's Cathedral, Alba
Iulia

Hunyad Castle in Hunedoara



Săvârșin Castle in Săvârșin

Brukenthal National Museum in
Sibiu

Fortified church in Biertan



Wooden church of Maramureș

Transylvania in fiction

Following the publication of Emily Gerard's *The Land Beyond the Forest* (1888), Bram Stoker wrote his gothic horror novel *Dracula* in 1897, using Transylvania as a setting. With its success, Transylvania became associated in the English-speaking world with vampires. Since then it has been represented in fiction and literature as a land of mystery and magic. For example, in Paulo Coelho's novel *The Witch of Portobello*, the main character, Sherine Khalil, is described as a Transylvanian orphan with a Romani mother, in an effort to add to the character's exotic mystique. The so-called Transylvanian trilogy of historical novels by Miklos Banffy, *The Writing on the Wall*, is an extended treatment of the 19th and early 20th century social and political history of the country.

Juliet Marillier's young adult fiction *Wildwood Dancing*, is set in Transylvania and involves the folk tales and the lifestyle of Transylvanians.

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Further reading

- This article incorporates text from a publication now in the public domain: Chisholm, Hugh, ed. (1911). *Encyclopædia Britannica* (11th ed.). Cambridge University Press.
- Patrick Leigh Fermor, *Between the Woods and the Water* (New York Review of Books Classics, 2005; ISBN 1-59017-166-7). Fermor travelled across Transylvania in the summer of 1934, and wrote about it in this account first published more than 50 years later, in 1986.
- Zoltán Farkas and Judit Sós, Transylvania Guidebook (<http://www.keletnyugat.hu/ujkonyvek/transylvania.php>)

External links

- RTI Radio - Radio Transsylvania International (<http://rti-radio.de/>)
- *Tolerant Transylvania - Why Transylvania will not become another Kosovo* (<http://www.ce-review.org/99/14/lovatt14.html>), Katherine Lovatt, in Central Europe Review, Vol 1, No 14 27 September 1999.
- *The History Of Transylvania And The Transylvanian Saxons* (<http://www.sibiweb.de/geschi/7b-history.htm>) by Dr. Konrad Gündisch, Oldenburg, Germany
- **(German)** *Historical Literature about Transilvania and Neighbouring Territories* (<http://people.freenet.de/Transsylvania/>) by Klaus Popa, Germany
- *Transylvania, its Products and its People*, by Charles Boner, 1865 (http://depts.washington.edu/cartah/text_archive/boner/toc_pag.shtml)

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Braşov

Braşov

— City —




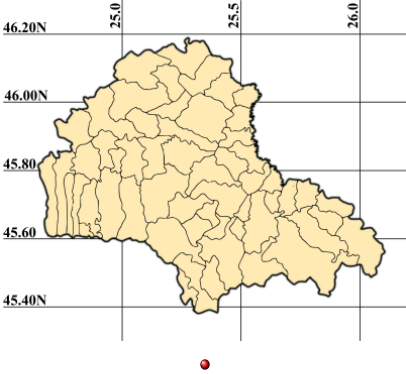

Braşov - medieval city



Coat of arms



Location of Braşov

<div></div>	
Location in Braşov County	
<div></div>	
Braşov	
Location of Braşov	
Coordinates: 45°40'N 25°37'E	
Country	 Romania
County	Braşov County
Status	County capital
Government	
• Mayor	George Scripcaru (Democratic Liberal Party)
Area	
• City	267.2 km ² (unknown operator: u'strong' sq mi)
• Metro	1368.5 km ² (unknown operator: u'strong' sq mi)
Elevation	600 m (unknown operator: u'strong' ft)
Population (2011 census ^[1])	
• City	227,961
• Density	853/km ² (unknown operator: u'strong'/sq mi)
• Metro	335,668
Demonym	<i>braşovean, braşoveancă</i> (ro)
Time zone	EET (UTC+2)

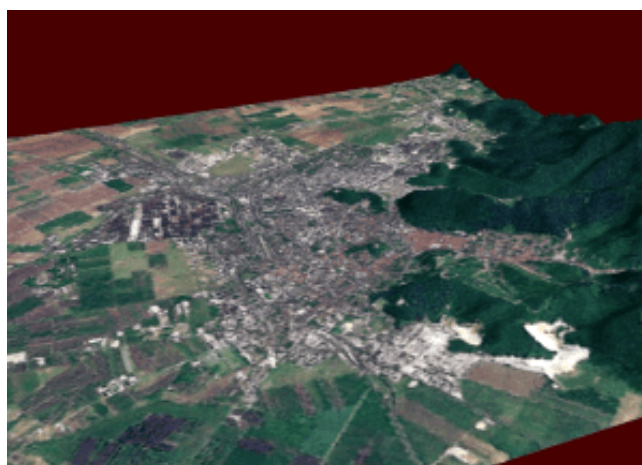
• Summer (DST)	EEST (UTC+3)
Website	http://www.brasovcity.ro

Braşov (Romanian pronunciation: [braˈʃov] (listen); German: *Kronstadt*; Hungarian: *Brassó*, Hungarian pronunciation: [ˈbrɒʃoː]; Medieval Latin: *Brassovia* or *Corona*; 1950–1960: *Oraşul Stalin*) is a city in Romania and the capital of Braşov County.

According to the last Romanian census, from 2011, there were 227,961 people living within the city of Braşov, making it the 8th most populous city in Romania, and the metropolitan area is home to 335,668 residents.^[1]

Braşov is located in the central part of the country, about 166 km north of Bucharest. It is surrounded by the Southern Carpathians and is part of the Transylvania region.

The city is notable for being the birthplace of the national anthem of Romania and for hosting the Golden Stag International Music Festival.



Three-dimensional view of Braşov

Etymology

The city was first attested in 1235 AD under the name **Corona**, a Latin word meaning "crown", a name given by the German colonists. The current Romanian and Hungarian names are derived from the Turkic word *barasu*, meaning "white water" with a Slavic suffix *-ov*.^[2]

The first attested mention of Braşov is *Terra Saxonum de Barasu* ("Saxon Land of Baras") in a 1252 document. The German name *Kronstadt* means "Crown City" and is reflected in the city's coat of arms as well as in its Medieval Latin name, *Corona*. The two names of the city, *Kronstadt* and *Corona*, were used simultaneously in the Middle Ages.

From 1950 to 1960, during part of the Communist period in Romania, the city was called *Oraşul Stalin* (Stalin City), after the Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.^[3]

History



The Black Church

The oldest traces of human activity and settlements in Braşov date back to the Neolithic age (about 9500 BCE). Archaeologists working from the last half of the 19th century discovered continuous traces of human settlements in areas situated in Braşov: Valea Cetăţii, Pietrele lui Solomon, Şprengi, Tâmpa, Dealul Melcilor, and Noua. The first three locations show traces of Dacian citadels; Şprengi Hill housed a Roman-style construction. The last two locations had their names applied to Bronze Age cultures—*Schneckenberg* 'Hill of the Snails' (Early Bronze Age^[4]) and *Noua* 'The New' (Late Bronze Age^[5]).

German colonists known as the Transylvanian Saxons played a decisive role in Braşov's development. These Germans were invited by King Géza II of Hungary to develop towns, build mines, and cultivate the land of Transylvania at different stages between 1141 and 1162. The settlers came primarily from the Rhineland, Flanders, and the Moselle region, with others from Thuringia, Bavaria, Wallonia, and even France.

In 1211, by order of King Andrew II of Hungary, the Teutonic Knights fortified the Burzenland to defend the border of the Kingdom of Hungary. On the site of the village of Braşov, the Teutonic Knights built Kronstadt – the city of the crown.^[6] Although the crusaders were evicted by 1225, the colonists they brought in remained, along with local population, as did three distinct settlements they founded on the site of Braşov:

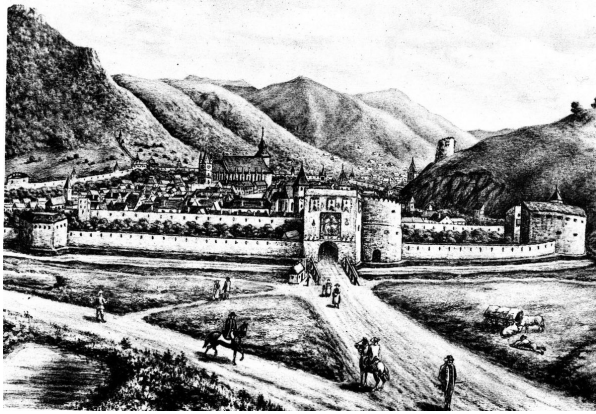
- *Corona*, around the Black Church (Biserica Neagră);
- *Martinsberg*, west of Cetăţuia Hill;
- *Bartholomä*, on the eastern side of Sprengi Hill.



The city center (Piaţa Sfatului)

Germans living in Braşov were mainly involved in trade and crafts. The location of the city at the intersection of trade routes linking the Ottoman Empire and Western Europe, together with certain tax exemptions, allowed Saxon merchants to obtain considerable wealth and exert a strong political influence. They contributed a great deal to the architectural flavor of the city. Fortifications around the city were erected and continually expanded, with several towers maintained by different craftsmen's guilds, according to medieval custom. Part of the fortification ensemble was recently restored using UNESCO funds, and other projects are ongoing. At

least two entrances to the city, *Poarta Ecaterinei* (or *Katharinentor*) and *Poarta Şchei* (or *Waisenhausgässertor*), are still in existence. The city center is marked by the mayor's former office building (Casa Sfatului) and the surrounding square (*piaţa*), which includes one of the oldest buildings in Braşov,



Braşov Citade Fortress in 1689



Sunset in Braşov

the Hirscher Haus. Nearby is the "Black Church" (*Biserica Neagră*), which some claim to be the largest Gothic style church in Southeastern Europe.

Once Braşov became a German colony, Romanians were denied several privileges by the new German settlers. They were no longer recognized as citizens of the city, and as such they were no longer able to continue to practice their crafts and operate their businesses. Additionally, their primary religion (Orthodox) was not officially recognized throughout Transylvania, especially during and after the 15th century.

The cultural and religious importance of the Romanian church and school in Şchei is underlined by the generous donations received from more than thirty hospodars of Moldavia and Wallachia, as well as that from Elizabeth of Russia. In the 17th and 19th centuries, the Romanians in Şchei campaigned for national, political, and cultural rights, and were supported in their efforts by Romanians from all other provinces, as well as by the local Greek merchant community. In 1838 they established the first Romanian language newspaper *Gazeta Transilvaniei* and the first Romanian institutions of higher education (*Şcolile Centrale Greco-Ortodoxe* - "The

Greek-Orthodox Central Schools", today named after Andrei Şaguna). The Holy Roman Emperor and sovereign of Transylvania Joseph II awarded Romanians citizenship rights for a brief period during the latter decades of the 18th century.

In 1850 the town had 21,782 inhabitants: 8,874 (40.7%) Germans, 8,727 (40%) Romanians, 2,939 (13.4%) Hungarians.^[7] In 1910 the town had 41,056 inhabitants: 10,841 (26.4%) Germans, 11,786 (28.7%) Romanians, 17,831 (43.4%) Hungarians.^[7] In World War I, the town was occupied by Romanian troops between 16 August and 4 October in 1916 during Battle of Transylvania.

In 1918, after the Proclamation of union of Alba Iulia (adopted by the Deputies of the Romanians from Transylvania), Deputies of the Saxons from Transylvania supported it, with their vote to be part of Romania, and declared their allegiance to the new Romanian state.

The inter-war period was a time of flourishing economic and cultural life in general, which included the Saxons in Braşov as well. However, at the end of World War II many ethnic Germans were forcibly deported to the Soviet Union, and many more emigrated to West Germany after Romania became a communist country.



Schei area in 1906

Jews have lived in Braşov since 1807, when Aron Ben Jehuda was given permission to live in the city, a privilege until then granted only to Saxons. The Jewish community of Braşov was officially founded 19 years later, followed by the first Jewish school in 1864, and the building of the synagogue in 1901. The Jewish population of Braşov was 67 in 1850, but it expanded rapidly to 1,280 people in 1910 and 4,000 by 1940. Today the community has about 230 members, after many families left for Israel between World War II and 1989.

Like many other cities in Transylvania, Braşov is also home for a significant ethnic Hungarian minority.

During the communist period, industrial development was vastly accelerated. Under Nicolae Ceauşescu's rule, the city was the site of the 1987 Braşov strike. This was repressed by the authorities and resulted in numerous workers being imprisoned.

Economy

Industrial development in Braşov started in the inter-war period, with one of the largest factories being the airplane manufacturing plant (IAR Braşov), which produced the first Romanian fighter planes, which were used in World War II against the Soviets. After Communist rule was imposed, the plant was converted to manufacture of agricultural equipment, being renamed "Uzina Tractorul Braşov" (internationally known as Universal Tractor Braşov).

Industrialization was accelerated in the Communist era, with special emphasis being placed on heavy industry, attracting many workers from other parts of the country. Heavy industry is still abundant, including Roman, which manufactures MAN AG trucks as well as native-designed trucks and coaches. Although the industrial base has been in decline in recent years, Braşov is still a site for manufacturing agricultural tractors and machinery, hydraulic transmissions, auto parts, ball-bearings, helicopters (at the nearby IAR site in Ghimbav), building materials, tools, furniture, textiles, shoes and cosmetics. There are also chocolate factories and a large brewery. In particular, the pharmaceutical industry has undergone further development lately, with GlaxoSmithKline establishing a production site in Braşov.

A large longwave broadcasting facility is located near Braşov, at Bod.

Significant growth in real estate prices continues, along with other major Romanian cities, as investor sentiment remains high, given the large foreign direct investment influx, recent accession to the European Union and forthcoming airport. Like most of Romania and Poland, cities like Braşov are predicted to exhibit strong growth for many years to come. Many foreign investors are sourcing their own land, or engaging local firms to create holiday or investment property.

Demographics

Historical population of Braşov		
Year	Population	% ±
1890	30,781	—
1900	34,511 ^[8]	12.1%
1910 census	41,056	18.9%
1930 census	59,232	44.2%
1948 census	82,984	40%
1965 estimate	140,500 ^[9]	69.3%
1975 estimate	206,156 ^[10]	46.7%
1983 estimate	331,240 ^[11]	60.6%

1992 census	323,736	−2.2%
2002 census	284,596	−12%
2011 census	227,961	−19.9%

Braşov has a total population of 227,961 (2011 census). Its ethnic composition includes:

- Romanians: 208,019 (91.3%)
- Hungarians: 16,172 (7.1%)
- Ethnic Germans: 1079 (0.5%)
- Romani people: 916 (0.4%)
- Other ethnicities: 1037 (0.7%)

In 2005, the Braşov metropolitan area was created. With its surrounding localities, Braşov has 335,668 inhabitants.^[1]

Education

Primary Schools

- 30 Primary Schools

High Schools

- Colegiul National “Dr. Ioan Mesota”
- Colegiul National de Informatica “Gr. Moisil”
- Colegiul National “Andrei Saguna”
- Colegiul National “Unirea”
- Liceul “Andrei Muresanu”
- Liceul Teoretic “J. Honterus”
- Colegiul de Stiinte ale Naturii “E. Racovita”
- Liceul “Nicolae Titulescu”
- Liceul de Arta
- Liceul cu Program Sportiv
- Colegiul de stiinte “Grigore Antipa”
- Liceul Teoretic “C. Brancoveanu”
- Seminarul Teologic Liceal Ortodox “D. Staniloaie”
- Colegiul Tehnic “Astra”
- Colegiul Tehnic “Mircea Cristea”
- Colegiul Tehnic “Iosif Silimon”
- Colegiul Tehnic “Sfintii Voievozi”
- Grupul Scolar de Arte si Meserii
- Colegiul Tehnic “Remus Radulet”
- Colegiul Tehnic Feroviar
- Grupul Scolar Industrial Auto
- Colegiul Tehnic “Maria Baiulescu”
- Grupul Scolar Ind. de Constr. Montaj
- Colegiul National Ec. “Andrei Barseanu”
- Grupul Scolar Silvic “Dr. N. Rucareanu”
- Grupul Scolar de Turism si Alim. Publica
- Liceul “FEG”
- Liceul “Europa Unita”
- Colegiul National “Aprily Lajos”

Universities:

- Transylvania University of Braşov
- George Bariţiu University
- Spiru Haret University
- Christian University Dimitrie Cantemir
- Academia Fortelor Aeriene Henri Coanda
- Fundatia Univ. Sf. Apostoli Petru si Pavel
- Universitatea Sextil Puscariu
- Universitatea Romano Canadiana

Transportation

The Braşov local transport network is well-developed, with around 50 bus and trolleybus lines. There is also a regular bus line serving Poiana Braşov, a nearby winter resort. All are operated by RAT Braşov. Because of its central location, the Braşov railway station is one of the busiest stations in Romania with trains to/from most destinations in the country served by rail.

The construction of Braşov Airport^[12] was initiated by Intelcan Canada on April 15, 2008. Although construction was planned to be finalized in 24 to 30 months, works have lagged and there is no term by which it will be operational. The project consists of a terminal capable of handling 1 million passengers per year and a 2,800 meter-long runway. The A3 highway is also planned to pass the city. However, there is no foreseeable date for starting construction.

Tourism

Centrally located Braşov is a good starting point for trips around Romania. The city is situated at fairly equal distances from several tourism destinations in the country: the Black Sea resorts, the monasteries in northern Moldavia, and the well-preserved wooden churches of Maramureş. It is also the largest city in a mountain resorts area. The old city is very well preserved and is best seen by taking the cable-car to the top of Tâmpa Mountain.

Temperatures from May to September fluctuate around 23 °C (**unknown operator: u'strong'** °F). Braşov benefits from a winter tourism season centered on winter sports and other activities. Poiana Braşov is the most popular Romanian ski resort and an important tourist center preferred by many tourists from other European states.



Poiana Braşov, a possible bid for the Olympic Winter Games

Sights

- *Biserica Neagră* ("The Black Church"), a celebrated Gothic site - the building dates from 1477, when it replaced an older church (demolished around 1385). It acquired the name after being blackened by smoke from the 1689 great fire.



Bran Castle, situated in the immediate vicinity of Braşov

- *Casa Sfatului* ("The mayor's former office building"). The administration for Braşov was here for more than 500 years.
- *Biserica Sf. Nicolae* (St. Nicholas Church), dating back to the 14th century.
- *The First Romanian School*, a museum with the first Romanian printing press among many other firsts.
- *The Rope Street*, the narrowest street in Romania.
- *Şchei*, the historically Bulgarian but then Romanian neighborhood outside of the old walled city.
- *Catherine's Gate*, the only original city gate to have survived from medieval times.
- *Şchei Gate*, next to Catherine's Gate, built in 1827.
- The Orthodox church of the Dormition of the Theotokos, built in 1896.
- *Muzeul Prima Carte Românească*, a museum exhibiting the first book printed in the Romanian language.
- *Tâmpa*, a small mountain in the middle of the city (900m above sea level), a sightseeing spot near the old city center.
- The "Braşov Citadel Fortress" - *Cetăţuia Braşovului*
- The nearby *Bran Castle*, attracting many fans of Dracula and often (but incorrectly) said to have been the home of Vlad the Impaler.
- *Poiana Braşov*, mainly a ski resort but also a sightseeing spot.
- *Râşnov Fortress*, above the nearby town of Râşnov, is a restored peasant fortress
- *Prejmer Fortress*, in the nearby town of Prejmer



Casa Sfatului

Twin cities

-  Tampere, Finland^[13]
-  Tours, France
-  Győr, Hungary
-  Rishon LeZion, Israel
-  Holstebro, Denmark
-  Musashino, Japan
-  Ghent, Belgium
-  Leeds, United Kingdom
-  Minsk, Belarus
-  Trikala, Greece
-  Venaria Reale, Italy
-  Cleveland, USA
-  Linz, Austria^[14]

Sport

The city has a long tradition in sports, the first sport associations being established at the end of the 19th century (Target shooting Association, Gymnastics School). The Transylvanian Sports Museum is among the oldest in the country and presents the evolution of consecrated sports in the city. During the communist period, universiades and daciades (derived from "dacian") were held, where local sportsmen were obliged to participate. Nowadays, the infrastructure of the city allows other sports to be practiced, such as football, rugby, tennis, cycling, handball, gliding, skiing, skating, mountain climbing, paintball, bowling, swimming, target shooting, basketball, martial arts, equestrian, volleyball or gymnastics. Annually, at "Olimpia" sports ground, the "Braşov Challenge Cup" tennis competition is held.

The only football champion team based in the city was Colţea Braşov, winning the championship in 1928 and managing second place in 1927, in only 10 years of existence (1921–1931). It was succeeded by Braşovia Braşov. Braşov hosted the Group A fixtures of the 2008 IIHF World Championship Division II ice hockey tournament. There were 15 games held between April 3 and April 13.

Braşov is set to host the 2013 European Youth Winter Olympic Festival.

As of 2012, Braşov is hosting two trail semi-marathons: Semimaraton "Intersport Braşov"^[15] and Braşov Marathon^[16].

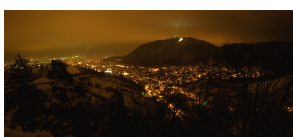
Local teams

- FC Braşov – soccer club
- ASC Corona Braşov – women's handball and ice hockey club
- CSU Braşov – basketball team
- CFR Braşov – rugby football club
- Bridge Club Braşov – contract bridge club

Sports venues

- Municipal Stadium (30,000 capacity) – built in 1975, used for 1 May and 23 August parades, rarely used for football matches (demolished in 2008)
- Braşov Arena (23,000 seats) – planned football stadium on the site of the former Municipal Stadium
- Silviu Ploesteanu Stadium (8,500 seats) - built in 1960 for football, floodlights were installed in 2009
- Dumitru Popescu Colibaşi Sports Hall (2,300 seats) – built around 1970 for indoor sports: handball, basketball, volleyball, sometimes others
- Braşov Olympic Skating Ring (2,000 capacity: 1,600 seated, 400 standing) – inaugurated on February 18, 2010, used mainly for ice hockey
- Paradisul Acvatic ^[17] - aquatic complex with 40m long swimming pool and three jumping platform (1m, 3m, 5.20m).

Gallery



Braşov at Night



Braşov seen from
Tâmpa Mountain



The famous
Hollywood-like
sign on top of
Mt. Tâmpa



Braşov Council
Square (Piaţa
Sfatului)



Piaţa Sfatului Braşov



Braşov Main Square



Council of Braşov County



The Black
Church



Str. Lunga



IAR Factory 1940



Braşov
Council
Building



Braşov Council Building at
night



Braşov Council Square



The Black Church



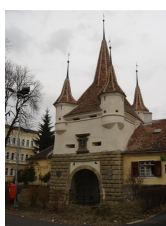
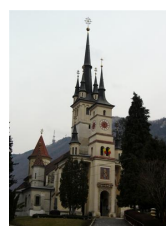
Braşov From The White Tower



Braşov Council Square(at night)



The Black Church (from Warthe Hill)

Ecaterina Gate
(built in 1559)Saint Nicholas
Church

Council Square (from Warthe Hill)



Biserica Neagră (from Warthe Hill)



Braşov City Wall

The White Tower
Watchtower/fortification

Bran Castle

View of
Braşov
from the
Piatra
Mare
MountainView of Braşov from the Tâmpa
MountainView
of
Braşov

Notes

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- [12] Website of the Braşov Airport (<http://www.aeroportbrasov.ro>)
- [13] (<http://www.brasovcity.ro/documente/municipiu/infratiri-parteneriate.pdf>)
- [14] News Report concerning the Twinning with Linz (<http://www.brasovpress.ro/2012/02/16/brasovul-s-a-infratit-cu-orasul-linz-austria/>)

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- "*Săpăturile de salvare de pe dealul Şprengghi*" ("The diggings for saving [the archaeological evidences] from Şprengghi Hill" - the hill was a quarry) A. Alexandrescu, N. Constantinescu, Bucureşti, 1959
- "*Die spätneolitischen Ansiedlungen mit bemalter Keramik aus oberem Laufe des Altflusses*", J. Teutsch, Mitteilungen der Prehistorischen Komision, I, Wien.

External links

- City Hall Official Website (<http://www.brasovcity.ro/>);
- (Romanian) Map of Braşov with route planning, points of interest, public transport (<http://www.openmap.ro/index.php?lat=45.6528&lon=25.6102&zoom=13&layers=0B00FTTTTFFFT>), openmap.ro
- German Cultural Center (<http://kulturzentrum-kronstadt.ro/>), kulturzentrum-kronstadt.ro
- Art Museum Braşov (<http://www.muzeulartabv.ro/home>), muzeulartabv.ro

Southeast Europe

Southeast Europe or **Southeastern Europe** is a relatively recent political designation mostly for the states of the Balkans.^{[1][2]} Writers such as Maria Todorova and Vesna Goldsworthy have suggested the use of the term *Southeastern Europe* to replace the word *Balkans* for the region, to minimize potential misunderstandings about the term *Balkans* having negative connotations.^[3]

Definition

The first known usage of the term 'Southeast Europe' was by Austrian researcher Johann Georg von Hahn (1811–1869) as broader term than the traditional Balkans.^[4] Unlike the United Nations definitions of Eastern Europe, Western Europe, Southern Europe and Northern Europe, there are no clear and universally accepted geographical or historical divisions that delineate this region.^[5] However, if United Nations definitions of bordering macroregions are done, the rest can be considered as Central Europe.^[6]

There are four possible definitions of "Southeastern Europe". The Balkan Peninsula south of the River Danube-River Sava-River Kupa line; the European territories of the former Ottoman Empire; and the substantially larger space with a northern delineation that respects actual borders, promoted by the European Union from 1999. Finally, there is a European Union co-funded regional development model that adds Austria, the eastern Regions of Italy and southwestern Ukraine.

Balkans model

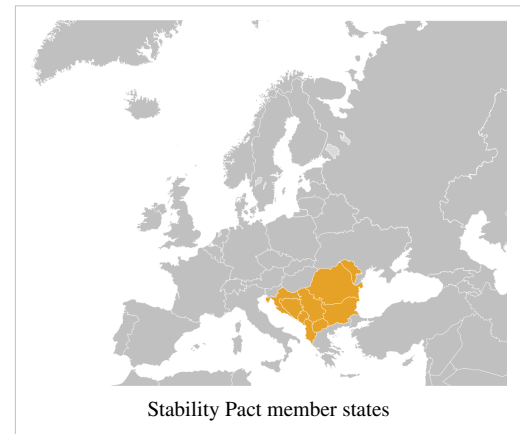
This concept is based on a geographic argument, that is, on the boundaries of the Balkans (which is considered a synonym by the supporters). The countries located fully in the peninsula are the following: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, *Kosovo** (Limited recognition), Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, and Montenegro.

The geographic definition may also include countries which are significantly located in the peninsula: Croatia (49%) and Serbia (60%) and some countries which are located mostly outside the peninsula as defined by the rivers: Romania (6%) and Turkey (3%).



Stability pact for Southeastern Europe model

The Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe was an institution aimed at strengthening peace, democracy, human rights and economy in the countries of South Eastern Europe from 1999–2008. It was replaced by the Regional Co-operation Council in February 2008. The RCC replaced the Stability Pact because it is more regionally owned, which was driven more by outside partners such as the EU. The countries included were: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, and Serbia.



Southeast Europe transnational co-operation programme model

The Southeast Europe transnational co-operation programme "aims to develop transnational partnerships on matters of strategic importance, in order to improve the territorial, economic and social integration process and to contribute to cohesion, stability and competitiveness of the region".^[7]

The members include: Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Hungary, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and some regions of Italy and Ukraine^[8]

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- [3] Bideleux, Robert; Ian Jeffries (2007). *A history of Eastern Europe* (http://books.google.ie/books?id=PTB0gn_qwTcC&printsec=frontcover). Taylor & Francis. p. 37. ISBN 978-0-415-36627-4. .
- [4] Hösch, Nehring, Sundhaussen (Hrsg.), Lexikon zur Geschichte Südosteuropas, S. 663, ISBN 3-8252-8270-8
- [5] Composition of macro geographical (continental) regions, geographical sub-regions, and selected economic and other groupings (<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/methods/m49/m49regin.htm#europe>) United Nations Statistics Division: Standard Country and Area Codes Classifications
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Name of Romania

The **name of Romania** (România) comes from the Romanian *Român*, which is a derivative of the Latin adjective *Romanus* (Roman).^[1] Romanians are a people living in Central and South-Eastern Europe speaking a Romance language.

Etymology of the ethnonym *Romanian* (român)

During the transition from Vulgar Latin to Romanian, there were some phonetical changes that modified *romanus* into *român* or *rumân*. The accusative form *romanus* was retained.

- ending "-m" dropped (occurred in all Romance languages)
- ending "-u" dropped (regular change; in Old Romanian was however still present)
- "a" → "â" (regular change; vowels before nasal stops turned into "â"/"î")
- "o" → "u" (regular change; however, in some regions of Romania, the variant with "o" was kept)

A reference to the name *Romanian* could be contained in the Nibelungenlied: "Duke Ramunc of Walachia, with seven hundred vassals, galloped up before her/like flying wild birds men saw them ride".^[2] It is argued that "Ramunc" could represent a symbolic figure, representing Romanians.^[3]

The self-designation of Romanians as Romans is mentioned in scholarly works as early as the 16th century by mainly Italian humanists travelling in Transylvania, Moldavia and Walachia. Thus, Tranquillo Andronico writes in 1534 that Romanians (Valachi) "now call themselves Romans".^[4] In 1532, Francesco della Valle accompanying Governor Aloisio Gritti to Transylvania, Walachia and Moldavia notes that Romanians preserved the name of the Romans (*Romani*) and "they call themselves in their language Romanians (Romei)". He even cites the sentence "Sti rominest ?" ("do you speak Romanian ?" for originally Romanian "știi românește ?").^[5] Ferrante Capececi writes around 1575 that the inhabitants of those Provinces call themselves "*Romanians*",^[6] while Pierre Lescapier notes in 1574 that those inhabiting Walachia, Moldavia and the most part of Transylvania say to be descendants of Romans, calling their language "*romanechte*" (French transcription for Romanian *românește* - Romanian).^[7]

Other first-hand evidence about the name Romanians used to call themselves comes from authors having lived in Transylvania and/or Romanian principalities: the Transylvanian Saxon Johann Lebel confirms in 1542 that common Romanians call themselves "Romuini",^[8] Orichovius (Stanislaw Orzechowski) notes as late as 1554 that "in their own language, Romanians are called Romini, after the Romans, and Walachs in Polish, after the Italians",^[9] Anton Verancsics writes around 1570 that Romanians living in Transylvania, Moldavia and Walachia call themselves Romans (Romanians)^[10] and Martinus Szent-Ivany cites in 1699 Romanian expressions: "Sie noi sentem Rumeni"

(modern standard Romanian "Și noi suntem români") and "Noi sentem di sange Rumena" (in modern standard Romanian "Noi suntem de sânge român")^[11]

Historical Romanian documents display two spelling forms of "Romanian": "*român*" and "*rumân*". For centuries, both spelling forms are interchangeably used, sometimes in the same phrase.^[12]

In the 17th century the term "Romanian" also appears as *Rumun* (Johann Tröster), *Rumuny* (Paul Kovács de Lisznyai), *Rumuin* (Laurentius Toppeltinus), and *Rumen* (Johannes Lucius and Martin Szentiványi).^[13]

In the Middle Ages the ethno-linguistical designation *rumân/român* also denoted *common people*. During the 17th century, as serfdom becomes a widespread institution, *common people* increasingly turns into *bondsman*. In a process of semantic differentiation in 17th-18th centuries the form *rumân*, presumably usual among lower classes, got merely the meaning of *bondsman*, while the form "*român*" kept an ethno-linguistic meaning.^[14] After the abolition of the serfage by Prince Constantine Mavrocordato in 1746, the form "*rumân*" gradually disappears and the spelling definitively stabilises to the form "*român*", "*românesc*".^[15]

Etymology of Romania (România)

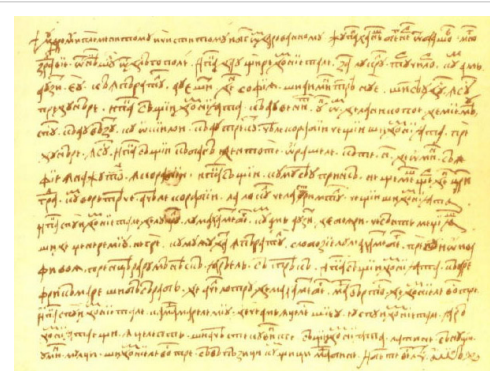
The earliest preserved document written in the Romanian language is a 1521 letter that notifies the mayor of Brașov about an imminent attack by the Turks. This document is also notable for having the first occurrence of "Romanian" in a Romanian text, Wallachia being called here *the Romanian Land*—*Țeara Rumânească* (Țeara < Latin *Terra* = land). As in the case of the ethnonym "român/rumân", Romanian documents use both forms, *Țara Românească* and *Țara Rumânească*, for the country name.

A common Romanian area embracing Wallachia, Moldavia and Transylvania is mentioned by the chronicler Miron Costin in the 17th century.^[16]

In the first half of the 18th century the erudite prince Dimitrie Cantemir systematically used the name *Țara Românească* for designating all three Principalities inhabited by Romanians.^[17]

The name "România" as common homeland of the Romanians is documented in the early 19th century.^[18]

The etymology of "*România*" didn't follow the Romanian pattern of word formation for country names, which usually adds the suffix *-ia* to the ethnonym, like in "*grec*" → "*Grecia*", "*Bulgar*" → "*Bulgaria*", "*rus*" → "*Rusia*", etc. Since it is a self-designation, the word "*România*" has an older history, coming from "*românie*" which in turn resulted as a derivation of the word "*român*" by adding the suffix *-ie*, like in "*moș*" → "*moșie*", "*domn*" → "*domnie*" or "*boier*" → "*boierie*" (lord → lordship). Initially, "*românie*" may indeed have meant "*Romanianship*", (just like "*rumânie*" meant "*serfdom*" before disappearing) being then used in the eve of the 19th century to designate the common homeland of Romanians.



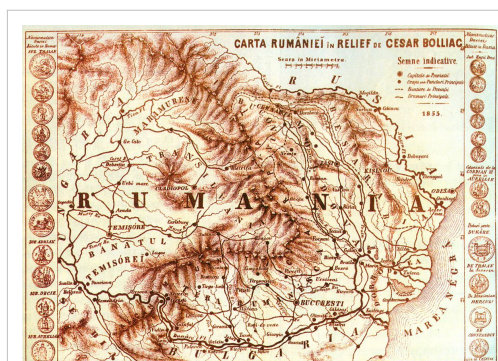
Neacșu's Letter, the oldest surviving document written in Romanian has the oldest appearance of the word "Romanian"



The first map of Romania (Greek: *Rumunia*) published in *Geograficon tis Rumunias*, Leipzig, 1816. Author: Dimitrie Daniil Philippide

The name "Romania" (România) was first brought to Paris by young Romanian intellectuals in the 1840s, where it was spelled "Roumanie" in order to differentiate Romanians (fr.: Roumains) from Romans (fr.: Romains). The French spelling version (Roumanie) spread then over many countries, such as Britain, Spain, Italy, Germany.

In English, the name of the country was originally borrowed from French "Roumania" (<"Roumanie"), then evolved into "Rumania", but was eventually replaced after World War II by the name used officially: "Romania". With a few exceptions such as English and Hungarian ("Románia"), in most languages, the "u" form is still used (German and Swedish: *Rumänien*; Bulgarian: *Румъния*; Serbian: *Румунија* / *Rumunija*, Polish: *Rumunia*, etc). In Portuguese, to distinguish them from the Romans, the Romanians are called *romenos* and their country *Roméia*. The *e* reflects the distinct quality of the Romanian *â*, even though it's not very similar.



Map of Rumania from 1855. Author: Cezar Bolliac

Spelling reforms

After the Communist seizure of power, a spelling reform simplified the Romanian alphabet substituting *î* for *â*. The name of the country became officially *Republica Populară Romînă*. Soon an exception was made to allow *â* for *român* and its derivations, while *î* kept used elsewhere. Since, and even after the post-Communist spelling reform, *român* is spelled with *a*.

Other uses of *Romania* and other derivatives of *Romanus*

- Since 7th century, name for region surrounding Ravenna (*Romagna* in Italian) where the Byzantines kept off the Germanic rulers.
- It has been an alternative name for the **Byzantine Empire** (also known as the Eastern Roman Empire, **Ρωμανία** *Rōmanía* in Greek - compare with the name **Ρουμανία** *Roumanía* for Romania). The name was also kept by non-Latin peoples, such as the Byzantines, who used to call themselves "Romaioi" (Ρωμαῖοι, also the origin of the first name Romeo). In the Arabic and Ottoman Turkish languages, it came to mean further Eastward regions of the empire, like Rûm and Rumelia in Asia. *Rumi* was also an Arabic word for Christian.
- It has been an alternative name for the **Latin Empire**, centred on Byzantium, set up by Roman Catholic Crusaders of the Fourth Crusade with the intention of replacing the Eastern Orthodox Byzantine Empire with a Roman Catholic empire.
- In Romance linguistics it designates all Romance linguistic areas.
- The word *Romanus* is also kept elsewhere in other parts of the Roman Empire in the name of the Romansh language of Switzerland.
- In the Balkans there are Romanic people that have an ethnonym derived from "Romanus", including Aromanians (*armâni*, *arumâni* or *rămăni*) and Istro-Romanians (*rumâri*). The Megleno-Romanians originally used the form *rămâni*, but it was lost by the 19th century and used the word *Vlaşi* borrowed from Bulgarian/Macedonian.

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 - [2] "Der herzog Ramunch vzer Vlâchen lant/mit Sibenhunduert mannen chom er fvr si gerant/sam die wilden vogele so sah man si varn", Das Nibelungenlied, Adventure 22, page 52v, stanza 1370 in Version C (<http://www.blb-karlsruhe.de/blb/blbhtml/nib/uebersicht2/nib-index-6.html>)
 - [3] "Der Nibelunge not", XII, ed. K. Lachmann, Berlin, 1878, p. 174; Francis P. Magoun jr. in "Geographical and Ethnic Names in the Nibelungenlied", p. 129-130; Fritz Schuster cu "Herzog Ramunc aus dem Walachenland", in "Sudost-Forschungen", XI, 1946-1952, p. 284-290)
 - [4] "nunc se Romanos vocant" A. Verres, Acta et Epistolae, I, p. 243
 - [5] "...si dimandano in lingua loro Romei...se alcuno dimanda se sano parlare in la lingua valacca, dicono a questo in questo modo: Sti Rominest ? Che vol dire: Sai tu Romano,..." Cl. Isopescu, Notizie intorno ai romeni nella letteratura geografica italiana del Cinquecento, in Bulletin de la Section Historique, XVI, 1929, p. 1-90
 - [6] "Anzi essi si chiamano romanesi, e vogliono molti che erano mandati quì quei che erano dannati a cavar metalli..." in Maria Holban, Călători străini despre Țările Române, vol. II, p. 158-161
 - [7] "Tout ce pays la Wallachie et Moldavie et la plus part de la Transvanie a esté peuplé des colonie romaines du temps de Traian l'empereur...Ceux du pays se disent vrais successeurs des Romains et nomment leur parler romanechte, c'est-à-dire romain ... " Voyage fait par moy, Pierre Lescapier l'an 1574 de Venise a Constantinople, fol 48 in Paul Cernovodeanu, Studii si materiale de istorie medievala, IV, 1960, p. 444
 - [8] "Ex Vlachi Valachi, Romanenses Italiani,/Quorum reliquae Romanensi lingua utuntur.../Solo Romanos nomine, sine re, repraesentantes./Ideirco vulgariter Romuini sunt appellanti", Ioannes Lebelius, De opido Thalmus, Carmen Historicum, Cibinii, 1779, p. 11-12
 - [9] "qui eorum lingua Romini ab Romanis, nostra Walachi, ab Italis appellantur" St. Orichovius, Annales polonici ab excessu Sigismundi, in I. Dlugossus, Historiae polonicae libri XII, col 1555
 - [10] "...Valacchi, qui se Romanos nominant...", "Gens quae ear terras (Transsylvania, Moldaviam et Transalpinam) nostra aetate incolit, Valacchi sunt, eaque a Romania ducit originem, tametsi nomine longe alieno..." "De situ Transsylvaniae, Moldaviae et Transalpiniae, in Monumenta Hungariae Historica, Scriptores; II, Pesta, 1857, p. 120
 - [11] "Valachos...dicunt enim communi modo loquendi: Sie noi sentem Rumeni: etiam nos sumus Romani. Item: Noi sentem di sange Rumena: Nos sumus de sanguine Romano" Martinus Szent-Ivany, Dissertatio Paralimpomenica rerum memorabilium Hungariae, Tyrnaviae, 1699, p. 39.
 - [12] "am scris aceste sfinte cărți de învățături, să fie popilor **rumânești**... să înțeleagă toți oamenii cine-s **rumâni** creștini" "Întrebare creștinească" (1559), Bibliografia românească veche, IV, 1944, p. 6.
- "...că văzum cum toate limbile au și înfluresc întru cuvintele slăvite a lui Dumnezeu numai noi **românii** pre limbă nu avem. Pentru aceia cu mare muncă scoasem de limba jidovească și grecească și srâbească pre limba **românească** 5 cărți ale lui Moisi prorocul și patru cărți și le dăruim voo frați **rumâni** și le-au scris în cheltuială multă... și le-au dăruit voo fraților **români**,... și le-au scris voo fraților **români**" Palia de la Orăștie (1581-1582), București, 1968.
- "În Țara Ardealului nu lăcuiesc numai unguri, ce și sași peste seamă de mulți și **români** peste tot locul...", Grigore Ureche, Letopisețul Țării Moldovei, p. 133-134.
- [13] <http://www.hungarian-history.hu/lib/chk/chk01.pdf>
 - [14] Stelian Brezeanu, Romanitatea Orientală în Evul Mediu, Editura All Educational, București, 1999, p. 229-246
 - [15] In his well known literary testament Ienăchiță Văcărescu writes: "Urmașilor mei Văcărești!/Las vouă moștenire:/Creșterea limbei **românești**/Ș-a patriei cinstire."

In the "Istoria faptelor lui Mavroghene-Vodă și a răzmeriței din timpul lui pe la 1790" a Pitar Hristache writes: "Încep după-a mea ideie/Cu vreo câteva condeie/Povestea mavroghenească/Dela Țara **Românească**."

- [16] Așa și neamul acésta, de carele scriem, al țărilor acestora, numele vechi și mai drept ieste rumân, adecă râmlean, de la Roma. Acest nume de la discălicatul lor de Traian, și cât au trăit (...) tot acest nume au ținut și țin până astăzi și încă mai bine munténii decât moldovénii, că ei și acum zic și scriu țara sa rumânească, ca și românii cei din Ardeal. (...)Și așa ieste acestor țări și țăări noastre, Moldovei și Țării Muntenesti numele cel drept de moșie, ieste rumân, cum să răspund și acum toți acéia din Țările Ungurești lăcuiitori și munténii țara lor și scriu și răspund cu graiul: Țara Românească. In De neamul moldovenilor (http://ro.wikisource.org/wiki/Miron_Costin)
- [17] "Hronicon a toată Țara Românească (care apoi s-u împărțit în Moldova, Munteniască și Ardealul) ...", D. Cantemir, Hronicul vechimei româno-moldo-vlahilor, in Operele Principelui Dimitrie Cantemir, Academia Română, Bucuresti, 1901, p. 180.
- [18] The first known mention of the term "Romania" in its modern denotation dates from 1816, as the Greek scholar Dimitrie Daniel Philippide published in Leipzig his work "The History of Romania", followed by "The Geography of Romania".

On the tombstone of Gheorghe Lazăr in Avrig (built in 1823) there is the inscription: "Precum Hristos pe Lazăr din morți a înviat/Așa tu **România** din somn ai deșteptat."

External links

- Origin of the name of Romania (<http://www.roconsulboston.com/Pages/InfoPages/Commentary/RomaniaName/Origin.html>)
- Baldwin I of Romania (http://historymedren.about.com/od/bentries/a/11_baldwinirom.htm)

History of Romania

This article provides only a brief outline of each period of the **history of Romania**; details are presented in separate articles (see the links in the box and below).

Prehistory



The Thinker of Hamangia, Neolithic Hamangia culture (c. 5250-4550 BC)

In 2002 in the "Cave With Bones" in present day Romania 40,000 year old modern human remains were discovered.^[1] In 2011 older modern human remains were identified in the UK (Kents Cavern at 41,000BP) and Italy (Grotta del Cavallo at 43,000BP),^[2] nonetheless the Romanian fossils are still among the oldest remains of *Homo sapiens* in Europe, so they may be representative of the first such people to have entered the continent.^[3] The remains are especially interesting because they present a mixture of archaic, early modern human and Neanderthal morphological features.^{[4][5]}

One of the fossils found—a male, adult jawbone—has been dated to be between 34,000 and 36,000 years old, which would make it one of the oldest fossils found to date of modern humans in Europe.^[6] A skull found in *Peștera cu Oase* (The Cave with Bones) in 2004-5 bears features of both modern humans and Neanderthals. According to a paper by Erik Trinkaus and others, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in January 2007, this finding suggests that the two groups interbred thousands of years ago.

Dacia



The sanctuaries of the ancient Dacian Kingdom capital, Sarmizegetusa Regia

The earliest written evidence of people living in the territory of the present-day Romania comes from Herodotus in book IV of his *Histories* written c. 440 BCE. Herein he writes that the tribal confederation of the Getae were defeated by the Persian Emperor Darius the Great during his campaign against the Scythians.^[7] The Dacians, widely accepted as part of the Getae described earlier by the Greeks, were a branch of Thracians that inhabited Dacia (corresponding to modern Romania, Moldova, northern Bulgaria and surroundings). The Dacian Kingdom reached its maximum expansion during King Burebista, between 82 BCE - 44 BCE. Under his leadership Dacia became

a powerful state which threatened the regional interests of the Romans. Julius Caesar intended to start a campaign against the Dacians, due to the support that Burebista gave to Pompey, but was assassinated in 44 BC. A few months later, Burebista shared the same fate, assassinated by his own noblemen. Another theory suggests that he was killed by Caesar's friends. His powerful state was divided in four and did not become unified again until 95 AD, under the reign of the Dacian king Decebalus.

The Roman Empire conquered Moesia by 29 BC, reaching the Danube. In 87 AD Emperor Domitian sent six legions into Dacia, which were defeated at Tapae. The Dacians were eventually defeated by Emperor Trajan in two campaigns stretching from 101 AD to 106 AD,^[8] and the core of their kingdom was turned into the province of Roman Dacia.

The Romans exploited the rich ore deposits of Dacia. Gold and silver were especially plentiful,^[9] and were found in great quantities in the Western Carpathians. After Trajan's conquest, he brought back to Rome over 165 tons of gold and 330 tons of silver. The Romans heavily colonized the province,^[10] and thus started a period of intense romanization, the Vulgar Latin giving birth to the Proto-Romanian language.^{[11][12]}

The geographical position of *Dacia Felix* (another name for the Roman province of Dacia) made it difficult to defend against the barbarians, and during 240 AD - 256 AD, under the attacks of the Carpi and the Goths, Dacia was lost. The Roman Empire withdrew from *Dacia Romana* around 271 AD, thus making it the first province to be abandoned.^{[13][14]}

Roman conquest of Dacia stands at the base of the origin of Romanians. Several competing theories have been introduced to explain the origin of modern Romanians. Linguistic and geo-historical analyses tend to indicate that Romanians have coalesced as a major ethnic group both South and North of the Danube.^[15] For further discussion, see *Origin of Romanians and Vlachs*.

Dark Ages

In either 271 or 275, the Roman army and administration left Dacia, which was invaded by the Goths.^[16] The Goths lived with the local people until the 4th century, when a nomadic people, the Huns, arrived.^[17] The Gepids^{[18][19]} and the Avars and their Slavic subjects^[20] ruled Transylvania until the 8th century.^[18] The Pechenegs,^[21] the Cumans^[22] and Uzes were also mentioned by historic chronicles on the territory of Romania, until the founding of the Romanian principalities of Wallachia by Basarab I around 1310 in the High Middle Ages,^[23] and Moldavia by Dragoș around 1352.^[24]

Different migrating peoples lived along the local populations, such as the Gothic Empire (Oium) from 271 until 378, the Hunnish Empire until 435, the Avar Empire and Slavs during the 6th century. Subsequently Magyars, Pechenegs, Cumans and Tatars also raided and settled in the lands to various extents.



Roman Dacia, between 106 and 271 AD



Bran Castle built in 1212, is commonly known as *Dracula's Castle* and is situated in the centre of present-day Romania. In addition to its unique architecture, the castle is famous because of persistent myths that it was once the home of Vlad III Dracula.

Middle Ages

In the Middle Ages, Romanians lived in three distinct principalities: Wallachia (Romanian: *Țara Românească*—"Romanian Land"), Moldavia (Romanian: *Moldova*) and Transylvania.

The Pechenegs (a semi-nomadic Turkic people of the Central Asian steppes) occupied the steppes north of the Black Sea (8th–12th century) and by the 10th century were in control of the lands between the Don and lower Danube rivers.^[25] By the 11th and 12th century, the nomadic confederacy of the Cumans and (Eastern) Kipchaks (who are considered to be either the eastern branch of the Cumans or a distinct but related tribe with whom the Cumans created a confederacy) were the dominant force over the vast territories stretching from the present-day Kazakhstan, southern Russia, Ukraine, to southern

Moldavia and western Wallachia.^{[26][27][28][29]}

By the 11th century, the area of today's Transylvania became a largely autonomous part of the Kingdom of Hungary. Kings of Hungary invited the Saxons to settle in Transylvania. Also living in Transylvania were the Székely. After the Magyar conquest (10-11th century), Transylvania became part of the Kingdom of Hungary until the 16th century,^[30] when it became the independent Principality of Transylvania^[31] until 1711.^[32] Many small local states with varying degrees of independence developed, but only in the 14th century the larger principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia emerged to fight a threat in the form of the Ottoman Turks, who conquered Constantinople in 1453.

Independent Wallachia has been on the border of the Ottoman Empire since the 14th century and slowly fell under the suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire during the 15th century. One famous ruler in this period was Vlad III the Impaler (also known as Vlad Dracula or Romanian: *Vlad Țepeș*), Prince of Wallachia in 1448, 1456–62, and 1476.^{[33][34]} In the English-speaking world, Vlad is best known for the exceedingly cruel punishments he imposed during his reign and for serving as the primary inspiration for the vampire main character in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. As king, he maintained an independent policy in relation to the Ottoman Empire, and in Romania he is viewed by many as a prince with a deep sense of justice,^[35] and a defender of both Wallachia and European Christianity against Ottoman expansionism.

The principality of Moldavia reached its most glorious period under the rule of Stephen the Great between 1457 and 1504.^[36] His rule of 47 years was unusually long, especially at that time - only 13 rulers worldwide were recorded to have ruled for at least 50 years until the end of 15th century. He was a very successful military leader (winning 47 battles and losing only 2^[37]), and after each victory, he raised a church, managing to build 48 churches or monasteries,^[38] some of them with unique and very interesting painting styles. *For more information see Painted churches of northern Moldavia listed in UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.* Stephen's most prestigious victory was over the Ottoman Empire in 1475 at the Battle of Vaslui for which he raised the Voroneț Monastery. For this victory, Pope Sixtus IV deemed him *verus christianae fidei athleta* (*true Champion of Christian Faith*). However, after his death, Moldavia would also come under the suzerainty of the Ottoman Empire in the 16th century.

Early modern period

By 1541, the entire Balkan peninsula and most of Hungary became Ottoman provinces. In contrast, Moldavia, Wallachia, and Transylvania, came under Ottoman suzerainty, but conserved fully internal autonomy and, until the 18th century, some external independence. During this period the Romanian lands were characterised by the slow disappearance of the feudal system, the distinguishment of some rulers like Vasile Lupu and Dimitrie Cantemir in Moldavia, Matei Basarab and Constantin Brâncoveanu in Wallachia, Gabriel Bethlen in Transylvania, the Phanariot Epoch, and the appearance of the Russian Empire as a political and military influence.

John II, the last non-Habsburg king of Hungary, moved his royal court to Alba Iulia in Transylvania, and after his abdication as king of Hungary, became the first Prince of Transylvania. His Edict of Turda was the first decree of religious freedom in the modern history of Europe (1568). In the subsequent period, Transylvania was ruled by mostly Calvinist Hungarian princes (until the end of the 17th century), and Protestantism flourished in the region.



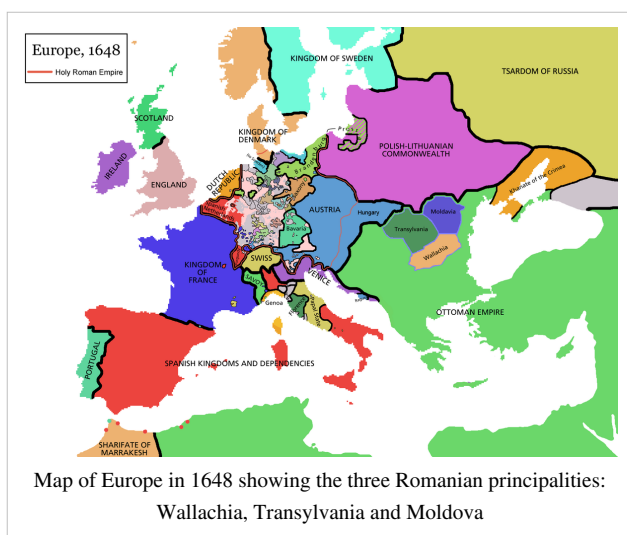
Seal of Michael the Brave after the union of the three Romanian principalities



The three Principalities united under Michael's authority from May - Sept 1600



The Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia in 1786, Italian map by G. Pittori, since the geographer Giovanni Antonio Rizzi Zannoni.



Michael the Brave (Romanian: Mihai Viteazul) was the Prince of Wallachia (1593–1601), of Transylvania (1599–1600), and of Moldavia (1600). Briefly, during his reign the three principalities largely inhabited by Romanians were for the first time united under a single rule.^[39] After his death, as vassal tributary states, Moldova and Wallachia had complete internal autonomy and an external independence, which was finally lost in the 18th century. In 1600, the principalities of Wallachia, Moldova and Transylvania were simultaneously headed by the Wallachian prince Michael the Brave (*Mihai Viteazul*), Ban of Oltenia, but the chance for a unity dissolved after Mihai was killed, only one year later, by the soldiers of an Austrian army

general Giorgio Basta. Mihai Viteazul, who was prince of Transylvania for less than one year, intended for the first time to unite the three principalities and to lay down foundations of a single state in a territory comparable to today's Romania.

The Principality of Transylvania experienced a golden age under the absolutist rule of Gabor Bethlen (1613–1629). In 1699, Transylvania became a territory of the Habsburgs' Austrian empire, following the Austrian victory over the Turks. The Austrians, in their turn, rapidly expanded their empire: in 1718 an important part of Wallachia, called Oltenia, was incorporated to the Austrian monarchy and was only returned in 1739. In 1775, the Austrian empire occupied the north-western part of Moldavia, later called Bukovina, while the eastern half of the principality (called Bessarabia) was occupied in 1812 by Russia.

During the period of Austro-Hungarian rule in Transylvania, and Ottoman suzerainty over Wallachia and Moldavia, most Romanians were in the situation of being second-class citizens (or even non-citizens)^[40] in a territory where they formed the majority of the population.^{[41][42]} In some Transylvanian cities, such as Braşov (at that time the Transylvanian Saxon citadel of Kronstadt), Romanians were not even allowed to reside within the city walls.^[43]

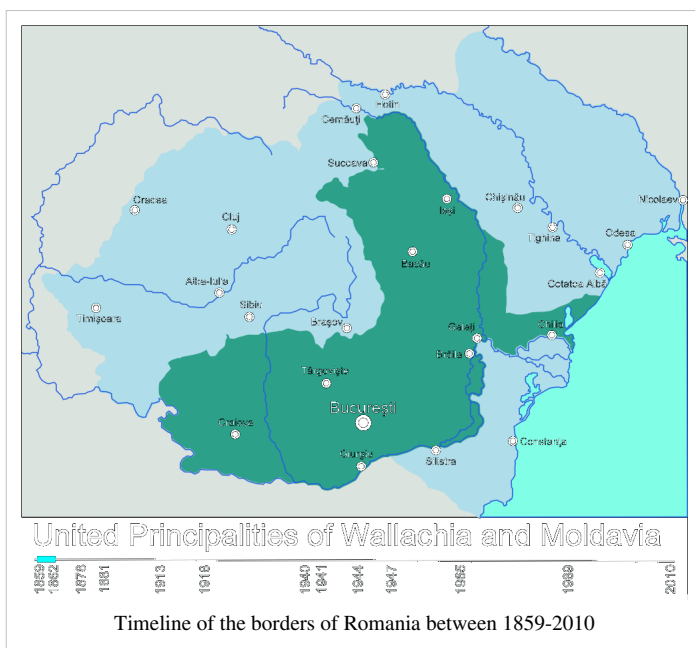
As in most European countries, 1848 brought revolution to Moldavia, Wallachia, and Transylvania, announced by Tudor Vladimirescu and his Pandurs in the Wallachian uprising of 1821. The goals of the revolutionaries - complete independence for Moldavia and Wallachia, and national emancipation in Transylvania - remained unfulfilled, but were the basis of the subsequent evolutions. Also, the uprising helped the population of the three principalities recognise their unity of language and interests. Moldavia and Romanian countries were very close, not just in language, but in geography also.

After the failed 1848 Revolution, the Great Powers did not support the Romanians' expressed desire to officially unite in a single state, forcing Romania to proceed alone against the Turks. Heavily taxed and badly administered under the Ottoman Empire, in 1859, people in both Moldavia and Wallachia elected the same "Domnitor" (ruler) - Alexandru Ioan Cuza - as prince. (*Domnitor* in Romanian).^[44] Thus, Romania was created as a personal union, albeit a Romania that did not include Transylvania, where the upper class and the aristocracy remained mainly Hungarian, although Romanian nationalism inevitably ran up against Hungarian nationalism at the end of the 19th century. As in the previous 900 years, Austria-Hungary, especially under the Dual Monarchy of 1867, kept the Hungarians firmly in control, even in parts of Transylvania where Romanians constituted a local majority.



Peleş Castle, retreat of Romanian monarchs

Independence and Kingdom of Romania



In an 1866 *coup d'état*, Cuza was exiled and replaced by Prince Karl of Hohenzollern-Sigmaringen, who became known as Prince Carol of Romania. He was appointed as Domnitor—Prince—of the Principality of Romania, as Carol I.

In 1877, Romania declared independence from the Ottoman Empire.

During the Russo-Turkish War, 1877-78, Romania fought on the Russian side.^[45]

In the 1878 Treaty of Berlin,^[46] Romania was recognized as an independent state by the Great Powers.^[47] In return, Romania ceded three southern districts of Bessarabia to Russia "in exchange" for the access to the ports at the Black Sea and acquired Dobruja.

On 26 March 1881 Prince Carol I was proclaimed the first King of Romania.

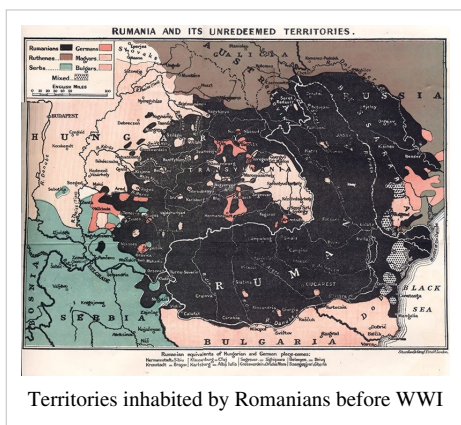
In 1881, the principality was raised to a kingdom and Prince Carol became King Carol I.

The 1878–1914 period was one of stability and progress for Romania. During the Second Balkan War, Romania joined Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Turkey against Bulgaria.

In the peace Treaty of Bucharest (1913) Romania gained Southern Dobruja - the Quadrilateral (the Durostor and Caliacra counties).^[48]

World War I

(1916–1918)



Territories inhabited by Romanians before WWI

The new state, squeezed between the great powers of the Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian, and Russian empires, looked to the West, particularly France, for its cultural, educational, military and administrative models. In 1916 Romania entered World War I on the Entente side, after the Entente agreed to recognize Romanian rights over Transylvania, which was part of Austria-Hungary until that time.

In August 1914, when World War I broke out, Romania declared neutrality. Two years later, under the pressure of Allies (especially France desperate to open a new front), on August 14/27 1916 it joined the Allies, for which they were promised support for the accomplishment of national unity, Romania declared war on

Austria-Hungary.^[49]

The Romanian military campaign ended in disaster for Romania as the Central Powers conquered two-thirds of the country and captured or killed the majority of its army within four months. Nevertheless, Moldova remained in Romanian hands after the invading forces were stopped in 1917. In May 1918, Romania was in no position to continue the war, and negotiated a peace treaty with Germany (see Treaty of Bucharest, 1918). In October 1918, Romania joined the war again and by the end of the war, the Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires had disintegrated; governing bodies created by the Romanians of Transylvania, Bessarabia and Bukovina chose union with the Kingdom of Romania, resulting in Greater Romania. and since by the war's end, Austria-Hungary and the Russian Empire had collapsed, Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transylvania were allowed to unite with the Kingdom of Romania in 1918. By the 1920 Treaty of Trianon, Hungary renounced in favour of Romania all the claims of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy over Transylvania.^[50] The union of Romania with Bukovina was ratified in 1919 in the Treaty of Saint Germain,^[51] and with Bessarabia in 1920 by the Treaty of Paris.^[52]

Greater Romania

(1918–1940)

The Romanian expression *România Mare* (literal translation "Great Romania", but more commonly rendered "Greater Romania") generally refers to the Romanian state in the interwar period, and by extension, to the territory Romania covered at the time (see map). Romania achieved at that time its greatest territorial extent (almost 300000 km²/**unknown operator: u'strong'** sq mi^[53]), managing to unite all the historic Romanian lands. Historically, Greater Romania—*România Mare*—represented one of the ideals of Romanian nationalism. Greater Romania is still seen by many as a "paradise lost", often



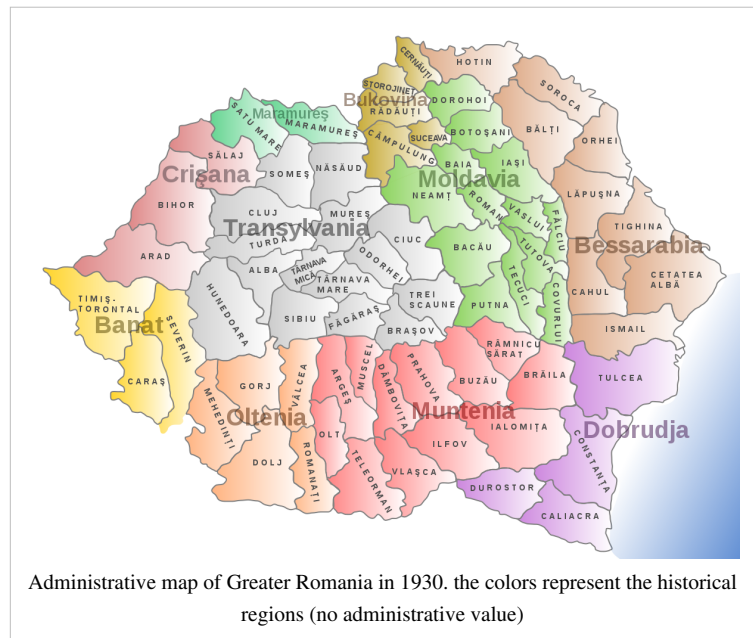
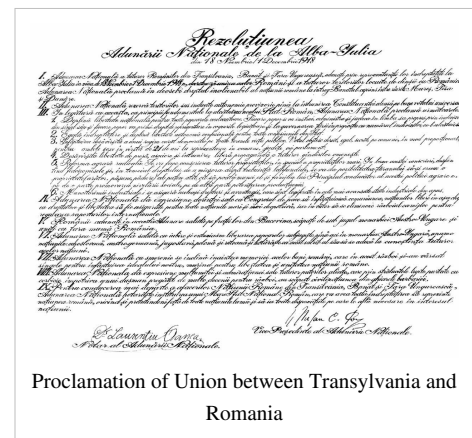
Great Romania (1920 - 1940)

by comparison with the "stunted" Communist Romania. To exploit the nationalistic connotation of the term, a nationalist political party uses it as its name.

In 1918, at the end of World War I, Transylvania and Bessarabia united with the Romanian Old Kingdom. The Deputies of the Romanians from Transylvania voted to unite their region by the *Proclamation of Union of Alba Iulia*. Bessarabia, having declared its independence from Russia in 1917 by the Conference of the Country (Sfatul Țării), called in Romanian troops to protect the province from the Bolsheviks who were spreading the Russian Revolution. The union of the regions of Transylvania, Maramureș, Crișana and Banat with the Old Kingdom of Romania was ratified in 1920 by the Treaty of Trianon, which recognised the sovereignty of Romania over these regions and settled the border between the independent Republic of Hungary and the Kingdom of Romania. The union of Bucovina and Bessarabia with Romania was ratified in 1920 by the Treaty of Versailles. Romania had also recently acquired the Southern Dobruja territory called "The Quadrilateral" from Bulgaria as a result of its participation in the Second Balkan War in 1913.

The Union of 1918 united most regions with clear Romanian majorities into the boundaries of a single state. However, it also led to the inclusion of various sizable minorities, including Magyars (ethnic Hungarians), Germans, Jews, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, etc., for a total of about 28% of the population (Magyars mostly in Transylvania; Germans in Transylvania, Bukovina, and Banat; Ukrainians in part of Bessarabia and Bukovina, Bulgarians in Dobrudja). Recognized by the Romanian Constitution of 1923 and supported by various laws (education, electoral, etc.), national minorities were represented in Parliament, and several of them created national parties (the Magyars in 1922, the Germans in 1929, the Jews in 1931), although a unique standing of minorities with autonomy on a wide basis, provided for at the assembly of Transylvanian Romanians on 1 December 1918 were not fulfilled.

Two periods can be identified in Romania between the two World Wars. From 1918 to 1938, Romania was a liberal constitutional monarchy, but one facing the rise of the nationalist, anti-semitic parties, particularly Iron Guard, which won about 15% of the votes in the general elections of 1937. From 1938 to 1944, Romania was a dictatorship. The first dictator was King Carol II, who abolished the parliamentary regime and ruled with his *camarilla*.



In 1939, Germany and the Soviet Union signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which stipulated, amongst other things, the Soviet "interest" in Bessarabia. Following the severe territorial losses of 1940 (*see next section*), Carol was forced to abdicate, replaced as king by his son Mihai, but the power was taken by the military dictator Ion Antonescu (initially in conjunction with the Iron Guard). In August 1944, Antonescu was arrested by Mihai.

World War II

(1940–1947)

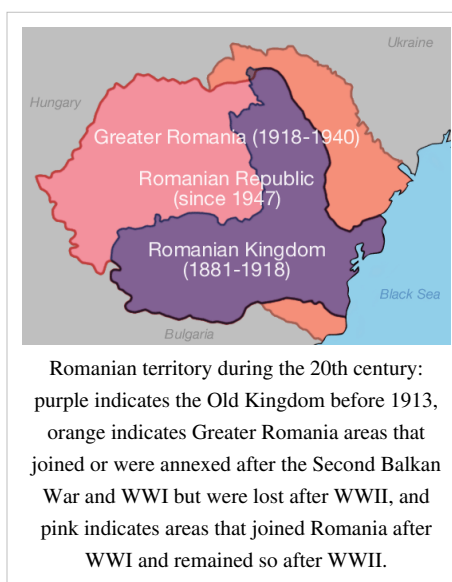
During the Second World War, Romania tried again to remain neutral, but on June 28, 1940, it received a Soviet ultimatum with an implied threat of invasion in the event of non-compliance.^[54] Under pressure from Moscow and Berlin, the Romanian administration and the army were forced to retreat from Bessarabia as well from Northern Bukovina to avoid war.^[55] This, in combination with other factors, prompted the government to join the Axis. Thereafter, southern Dobruja was awarded to Bulgaria, while Hungary received Northern Transylvania as result of an Axis arbitration.^[56]

In 1940, Romania lost territory in both east and west: In June 1940, after receiving an ultimatum from the Soviet Union, Romania ceded Bessarabia and northern Bukovina^{[57][58][59][60]} (*see Soviet occupation of Bessarabia*). Two thirds of Bessarabia were combined with a small part of the USSR to form the Moldavian SSR. Northern Bukovina and Budjak were apportioned to the Ukrainian SSR. In August 1940, Northern Transylvania was awarded to Hungary by Germany and Italy through the Second Vienna Award. Southern Dobruja was also lost to Bulgaria shortly after Carol's abdication.

Because Carol II lost so much territory through failed diplomacy, the army supported seizure of power by General Ion Antonescu. For four months (the period of the National Legionary State), he had to share power with the Iron Guard, but the latter overplayed their hand in January 1941 and were suppressed. Romania entered World War II under the command of the German Wehrmacht in June 1941, declaring war to the Soviet Union in order to recover Bessarabia and northern Bukovina. Romania was awarded the territory between Dniester and the Southern Bug by Germany to administer it under the name of *Transnistria*.

The authoritarian King Carol II abdicated in 1940, succeeded by the National Legionary State, in which power was shared by Ion Antonescu and the Iron Guard. Within months, Antonescu had crushed the Iron Guard, and the subsequent year Romania entered the war on the side of the Axis powers. During the war, Romania was the most important source of oil for Nazi Germany,^[61] prompting multiple bombing raids by the Allies. By means of the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union, Romania recovered Bessarabia and northern Bukovina from the Soviet Russia, under the leadership of general Ion Antonescu.

The Antonescu regime played a major role in the Holocaust,^[62] following to a lesser extent the Nazi policy of oppression and massacre of the Jews, and Romas, primarily in the Eastern territories Romania recovered or occupied from the Soviet Union (Transnistria) and in Moldavia.^[63] According to an international commission report released by the Romanian government in 2004, Antonescu's



dictatorial government of Romania is responsible for the murder in various forms (including deportations to concentration camps and executions by the Romanian Army and Gendarmerie and the German Einsatzgruppen), between 280,000 to 380,000 Jews in Romania and in the war zone of Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transnistria.^{[64][65]}



Map of Romania after WWII

On 20 August 1944 the Soviet Red Army crossed the border into Romania. On 23 August 1944 Antonescu was toppled and arrested by King Michael I of Romania who joined the Allies and declared war on Germany. On 31 August 1944 the Soviet Red Army entered Bucharest. Despite Romania's change of sides its role in the defeat of Nazi Germany was not recognized by the Paris Peace Conference of 1947.^[66] With the Red Army forces still stationed in the country and exerting *de facto* control, Communists and their allied parties claimed 80% of the vote, through a combination of vote manipulation,^[67] elimination, and forced mergers of competing parties, thus establishing themselves as the dominant force. Romania suffered additional heavy casualties fighting the Nazi Army in Hungary and Czechoslovakia. By the end of the war, the Romanian army had suffered about 300,000 casualties.^[68]

The Paris Peace Treaty at the end of World War II rendered the Vienna Awards void: Northern Transylvania returned to Romania, but Bessarabia, northern Bukovina and southern Dobruja were not recovered. The Moldavian SSR became independent of the Soviet Union only with the latter's 1991 demise, becoming the Republic of Moldova.

Communist period

(1947–1989)

In 1947, King Michael I was forced by the Communists to abdicate and leave the country, Romania was proclaimed a republic,^{[69][70]} and remained under direct military and economic control of the USSR until the late 1950s. During this period, Romania's resources were drained by the "SovRom" agreements: mixed Soviet-Romanian companies established to mask the looting of Romania by the Soviet Union.^{[71][72][73]}

Soviet occupation following World War II led to the formation of a communist People's Republic in 1947, and the abdication of King Michael, who went into exile. The leader of Romania from 1948 to his death in 1965 was Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, the First Secretary of the Romanian Workers' Party, who first sowed the seeds of greater independence from the Soviet Union by persuading Soviet First Secretary Nikita Khrushchev to withdraw troops from Romania in April 1958.^[74]



Nicolae Ceaușescu condemning the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968

After the negotiated retreat of Soviet troops, Romania, under the new leadership of Nicolae Ceaușescu, started to pursue independent policies, including the condemnation of the Soviet-led 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia (Romania being the only Warsaw Pact country not to take part in the invasion), the continuation of diplomatic relations with Israel after the Six-Day War of 1967 (again, the only Warsaw Pact country to do so), and the establishment of economic (1963) and diplomatic (1967) relations with the Federal Republic of Germany.^[75] Also, close ties with the Arab countries (and the PLO) allowed Romania to play a key role in the Israel-Egypt and Israel-PLO peace processes by intermediating the visit of Sadat in Israel.^[76] As Romania's foreign debt sharply

increased between 1977 and 1981 (from 3 to 10 billion US dollars),^[77] the influence of international financial organisations such as the IMF and the World Bank grew, conflicting with Nicolae Ceaușescu's autarchic policies. Ceaușescu eventually initiated a project of total reimbursement of the foreign debt (completed in 1989, shortly before his overthrow). To achieve this goal, he imposed policies that impoverished Romanians and exhausted the Romanian economy. He greatly extended the authority of the police state and imposed a cult of personality. These led to a dramatic decrease in Ceaușescu's popularity and culminated in his overthrow and execution in the bloody Romanian Revolution of 1989.

Seduced by Ceaușescu's "Independent" foreign policy, Western leaders were slow to turn against a regime that, by the late 1970s, had become increasingly arbitrary, capricious and harsh. Rapid economic growth fueled by foreign credits gradually gave way to wrenching austerity and severe political repression, which became increasingly draconian through the 1980s. During the 1947–1962 period, many people were arbitrarily killed or imprisoned for political, economic or unknown reasons:^[78] detainees in prisons or camps, deported persons, persons under house arrest, and administrative detainees. There were hundreds of thousands of abuses, deaths and incidents of torture against a large range of people, from political opponents to ordinary citizens.^[79] Between 60,000^[80] and 80,000 political prisoners were detained as psychiatric patients and treated in some of the most sadistic ways by doctors.^[81] It is estimated that, in total, two million people were direct victims of Communist repression in Romania.^{[82][83]}

1989 Revolution

The Romanian Revolution of 1989 resulted in more than 1,000 deaths in Timișoara and Bucharest, and brought about the fall of Ceaușescu and the end of the Communist regime in Romania. After a weeklong state of unrest in Timișoara, a mass rally summoned in Bucharest in support of Ceaușescu on December 21, 1989 turned hostile. The Ceaușescu couple, fleeing Bucharest by helicopter, ended up in the custody of the army. After being tried and convicted by a kangaroo court for genocide and other crimes, they were executed on December 25, 1989. The events of this revolution remain to this day a matter of debate, with many conflicting theories as to the motivations and even actions of some of the main players.

Ion Iliescu, a former Communist Party official marginalized by Ceaușescu, attained national recognition as the leader of an impromptu governing coalition, the National Salvation Front (FSN) that proclaimed the restoration of democracy and civil liberties on December 22, 1989. The Communist Party was initially outlawed by Ion Iliescu, but he soon revoked that decision; as a consequence, Communism is not outlawed in Romania today. However, Ceaușescu's most unpopular measures, such as bans on abortion and contraception, were among the first laws to be changed after the Revolution, and their legality has not been questioned since then.

Transition to free market

(1990–2004)

After the fall of Ceaușescu, the National Salvation Front (FSN), led by Ion Iliescu, took partial multi-party democratic and free market measures.^{[84][85]} Several major political parties of the pre-war era, such as the National Christian Democrat Peasant's Party (PNȚCD), the National Liberal Party (PNL) and the Romanian Social Democrat Party (PSDR) were resurrected. After several major political rallies (especially in January), in April 1990, a sit-in protest contesting the results of the recently held parliamentary elections began in University Square, Bucharest. The protesters accused the FSN of being made up of former Communists and members of the Securitate. The protesters did not recognize the results of the election, which they deemed undemocratic, and were asking for the exclusion from the political life of the former high-ranking Communist Party members. The protest rapidly grew to become an ongoing mass demonstration (known as the Golaniad). The peaceful demonstrations degenerated into violence, with some of the protesters attacking the police headquarters, national television station, and the Foreign Ministry.^[86] After the police failed to bring the demonstrators to order, Ion Iliescu called on the "men of good will" to come and defend the State institutions in Bucharest.^{[87][88]} Various worker groups from Romania's industrial platforms

responded, some of whom engaged in altercations with the protesters. But the most visible and politically influential were the coal miners of the Jiu Valley. After representatives of the government met with leaders of the Jiu Valley coal miners union, thousands of miners were organized and arrived in Bucharest June 14, transported on special trains provided by key members of the government, one of them being the subsecretary of state for the Transport Ministry, the first (two time) suspended president of Romania, former communist party member, Traian Basescu [89] [86][89] Their violent intervention is remembered as the June 1990 Mineriad.

Presidential and parliamentary elections were held on May 20, 1990. Running against representatives of the re-established pre-war National Peasants' Party and National Liberal Party, and taking advantage of FSN's tight control of the national radio and television, Iliescu won 85% of the vote. The FSN secured two-thirds of the seats in Parliament. A university professor with strong family roots in the Communist Party, Petre Roman, was named prime minister of the new government, which consisted mainly of former communist officials. The government initiated modest free market reforms.

Because the majority of ministers in the Petre Roman government were ex-communists, anti-communist protesters initiated a round-the-clock anti-government demonstration in University Square, Bucharest in April 1990. Two months later, these protesters, whom the government referred to as "hooligans", were brutally dispersed by the miners from Jiu Valley, called in by President Iliescu; this event became known as the mineriad (see June 1990 Mineriad). The facts surrounding these events are disputed by the miners, who claim that most of the violence was perpetrated by government agents that were agitating the crowds. Some of the counter-protesters also attacked the headquarters and private residences of opposition leaders. Later Parliamentary inquiries showed that members of the government intelligence services were involved in the instigation and manipulation of both the protesters and the miners, and in June 1994 a Bucharest court found two former Securitate officers guilty of ransacking and stealing \$100,000 from the house of a leading opposition politician.^{[86][89]} Petre Roman's government fell in late September 1991, when the miners returned to Bucharest to demand higher salaries. A technocrat, Theodor Stolojan, was appointed to head an interim government until new elections could be held.

In December 1991, a new constitution was drafted and subsequently adopted, after a popular referendum, which, however, attracted criticism from international observers who accused the government of manipulating the population and even of outright fraud. (The constitution was most recently revised by a national referendum on October 18–19, 2003, again plagued by fraud accusations made by internal and international observers.) The new constitution, which took effect October 29, 2003, follows the structure of the Constitution of 1991, but makes significant revisions, among which the most significant are extension of the presidential mandate from four years to five, and the guaranteed protection of private property.

March 1992 marked the split of the FSN into two groups: the Democratic National Front (FDSN), led by Ion Iliescu and the Democratic Party (PD), led by Petre Roman. Iliescu won the presidential elections in September 1992 by a clear margin, and his FDSN won the general elections held at the same time. With parliamentary support from the nationalist PUNR (National Unity Party of Romanians), PRM (Great Romania Party), and the ex-communist PSM (Socialist Workers' Party), a new government was formed in November 1992 under Prime Minister Nicolae Văcăroiu, an economist. The FDSN changed its name to Party of Social Democracy in Romania (PDSR) in July 1993.

The subsequent disintegration of the FSN produced several political parties including the Romanian Democrat Social Party (PDSR, later Social Democratic Party, PSD), the Democratic Party (PD) and the ApR (Alliance for Romania). The PDSR party governed Romania from 1990 until 1996 through several coalitions and governments with Ion Iliescu as head of state. Since then there have been three democratic changes of government: in 1996, the democratic-liberal opposition and its leader Emil Constantinescu acceded to power; in 2000 the Social Democrats returned to power, with Iliescu once again president; and in 2004 Traian Băsescu was elected president, with an electoral coalition called Justice and Truth Alliance (DA). The government was formed by a larger coalition which also includes the Conservative Party and the ethnic Hungarian party.

Emil Constantinescu of the Democratic Convention (CDR) emerged as the winner of the second round of the 1996 presidential elections and replaced Iliescu as chief of state. The PDSR won the largest number of seats in Parliament, but was unable to form a viable coalition. Constituent parties of the CDR joined the Democratic Party (PD), the National Liberal Party (PNL) and the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania (UDMR) to form a centrist coalition government, holding 60% of the seats in Parliament. This coalition of sorts frequently struggled for survival, as decisions were often delayed by long periods of negotiations among the involved parties. Nevertheless, this coalition was able to implement several critical reforms. The new coalition government, under prime minister Victor Ciorbea remained in office until March 1998, when Radu Vasile (PNȚCD) took over as prime minister. The former governor of the National Bank, Mugur Isărescu, eventually replaced Radu Vasile as head of the government.

The 2000 elections, brought Iliescu's PDSR, known as Social Democratic Party (PSD) after the merger with the PSDR, back to power. Iliescu won a third term as the country's president. Adrian Năstase became the prime minister of the newly formed government.

European Union membership

(2004–present)

Presidential and parliamentary elections took place again on November 28, 2004. No political party was able to secure a viable parliamentary majority and opposition parties alike that the PSD had committed large-scale electoral fraud.^[90] There was no winner in the first round of the presidential elections. The joint PNL-PD candidate, Traian Băsescu, won the second round on December 12, 2004 with 51% of the vote and thus became the third post-revolutionary president of Romania.

The PNL leader, Călin Popescu Tăriceanu was assigned the difficult task of building a coalition government without including the PSD. In December 2004, the new coalition government (PD, PNL, PUR Romanian Humanist Party - which eventually changed its name to Romanian Conservative Party and UDMR), was sworn in under Prime Minister Tăriceanu.

Post–Cold War Romania developed closer ties with Western Europe, eventually joining NATO in 2004.^[91] The country applied in June 1993 for membership in the European Union (EU). It became an Associated State of the EU in 1995, an Acceding Country in 2004, and a member on January 1, 2007.^[92]

Following the free travel agreement and politic of the post–Cold War period, as well as hardship of the life in the post 1990s economic depression, Romania has an increasingly large diaspora. The main emigration targets are Spain, Italy, Germany, Austria, UK, Canada and the USA.

Romania joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in 2004, and the European Union, alongside Bulgaria, on January 1, 2007.

In April 2008, Bucharest hosted the NATO summit.

In January 2012, Romania started the first large national protests since '89, motivated by the global economical crisis of that time and as an answer to the crisis situations and unrest in Europe of 2000s.

Romanian rulers

- List of Wallachian rulers (up to 1859)
- List of Moldavian rulers (up to 1859)
- List of Transylvanian rulers (up to 1867)
- Kings of Romania (1881–1947)
- Presidents of Romania (since 1947)
- Prime ministers of Romania (since 1862)

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External links

- The Beginning of the Final Solution: Murder of the Jews of Romania (http://www1.yadvashem.org/yv/en/holocaust/about/04/romania.asp?WT.mc_id=wiki) on the Yad Vashem website
 - Illustrated History of Romanians (<http://domino.kappa.ro/guvern/istoria-e.html>)
 - World Statesmen: Romania (<http://www.worldstatesmen.org/Romania.htm>), including a timeline, a comprehensive history of the Romanian flag; a listing of princes, monarchs, prime ministers; etc.
-

Communist Romania

People's Republic of Romania (1947–1965) Socialist Republic of Romania (1965–1989) <i>Republica Populară Română (1947–1965)</i> <i>Republica Socialistă România (1965–1989)</i>	
←  1947–1989  →	
	
Flag	Coat of arms
Anthem Zdrobite cătușe (1947–1953) Te slăvim Românie (1953–1977) Treî Culori (1977–1990)	
	
Capital	Bucharest
Language(s)	Romanian
Government	Marxist–Leninist single-party state
Head of State	
- 1947–1952	Constantin Parhon
- 1952–1958	Petru Groza
- 1958–1961	Ion Gheorghe Maurer
- 1961–1965	Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej
- 1965–1967	Chivu Stoica
- 1967–1989	Nicolae Ceaușescu

Legislature	Great National Assembly
Historical era	Cold War
- Monarchy abolished	30 December 1947
- Fall of Ceaușescu	22 December 1989
Area	
- 1987	238391 km ² (92043 sq mi)
Population	
- 1987 est.	23102000
Density	96.9 /km ² (251 /sq mi)
Currency	Romanian Leu
Calling code	+40
The administrative divisions of the country were <i>județe</i> from 1947 to 1950, rayons from 1950 to 1968 and <i>județe</i> from 1968 to 1989.	

Communist Romania was the period in Romanian history (1945–1989) when that country passed into Soviet domination in 1945 on its way to becoming a Soviet-aligned communist state in the Eastern Bloc, with the dominant role of the Romanian Communist Party enshrined in its successive constitutions. Officially, the country was called the **People's Republic of Romania** (Romanian: *Republica Populară Română*; RPR) from 1947 to 1965, and the **Socialist Republic of Romania** (*Republica Socialistă România*; RSR) from 1965 to 1989.

The Allied powers, represented solely by the Soviet Union, occupied the former Axis-member Romania (but which had gone over to the Allies in 1944) in the aftermath of World War II. A pro-Soviet new government, which also included members of the previously outlawed Communist Party, was installed on 6 March 1945, after mass demonstrations by communist sympathizers and political pressure from the Soviet representative of the Allied Control Commission. Gradually members of the Communist Party and communist-aligned parties gained control of the administration, while prewar political leaders were steadily eliminated from political life. King Michael abdicated under pressure in December 1947 and went into exile, and the People's Republic of Romania was declared.

During the early years, Romania's scarce resources after World War II were drained by the "SovRom" agreements, mixed Soviet-Romanian tax-exempt companies established in the aftermath of World War II which allowed the Soviets to control Romania's major sources of income, in addition to the^[1] war reparations paid to the USSR. A large number of people were executed or died in custody; while judicial executions from 1945 to 1964 numbered 137,^[2] deaths in custody are estimated in the tens^[3] or hundreds of thousands.^{[4][5]} Many more were imprisoned for political, economical or other reasons. There were a large number of abuses, deaths and incidents of torture against a large range of people.

In the 1950s, Romania's communist government began to assert some independence from the Soviet Union. One example of this new independence is when Romania convinced the Soviet Union to withdraw all Soviet troops from Romania by 1958. Nicolae Ceaușescu became head of the Communist Party in 1965 and head of state in 1967, assuming the newly-established role of President of Romania in 1974. Ceaușescu's denunciation of the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and a brief relaxation in internal repression helped give him a positive image both at home and in the West. Rapid economic growth fueled by foreign credits gradually gave way to austerity and political repression that led to the fall of the authoritarian government in December 1989.

History

Soviet occupation and rise of the Communists



Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej speaking at a workers' rally in Nation Square, Bucharest after the 1946 elections.

When King Michael, supported by the main political parties, overthrew Ion Antonescu in August 1944, breaking Romania away from the Axis and bringing it over to the Allied side, Michael could do nothing to erase the memory of his country's recent active participation in the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Romanian forces fought under Soviet command, driving through Northern Transylvania into Hungary proper, and on into Czechoslovakia, Austria and Germany. However, the Soviets treated Romania as conquered territory,^[6] and Soviet troops remained in the country as occupying forces under the pretext that Romanian authorities could not guarantee the security and stability of Northern Transylvania.

The Yalta Conference had granted the Soviet Union a predominant interest in Romania, the Paris Peace Treaties failed to acknowledge Romania as a co-belligerent, and the Red Army was sitting on Romanian soil. The Communists played only a minor role in Michael's wartime government, headed by General Nicolae Rădescu, but this changed in March 1945, when Dr. Petru Groza of the Ploughmen's Front, a party closely associated with the Communists, became prime minister. Although his government was broad, including members of most major prewar parties except the Iron Guard, the Communists held the key ministries.

The King was not happy with the direction of this government, but when he attempted to force Groza's resignation by refusing to sign any legislation (a move known as "the royal strike"), Groza simply chose to enact laws without bothering to obtain Michael's signature. On 8 November 1945, King Michael's name day, an anti-communist demonstration in front of the Royal Palace in Bucharest was met with force, resulting in dozens of killed and wounded; Soviet officers restrained Romanian soldiers and police from firing on civilians, and Soviet troops restored order.^[7]

Despite the King's disapproval, the first Groza government brought land reform and women's suffrage. However, it also brought the beginnings of Soviet domination of Romania. In the elections of 19 November 1946, the Communist-led Bloc of Democratic Parties (BPD) claimed 84% of the votes. These elections were characterized by widespread irregularities, including intimidation, electoral fraud, and assassinations^{[8][9][10]} Archives confirm suspicions at the time that the election results were, in fact, falsified.^[11]

After forming government, the Communists moved to eliminate the role of the centrist parties; notably, the National Peasant Party was accused of espionage after it became clear in 1947 that their leaders were meeting secretly with United States officials. A show trial of their leadership was then arranged, and they were put in jail. Other parties were forced to "merge" with the Communists.

In 1946–7, hundreds of participants in the pro-Axis government were executed as war criminals, primarily for their involvement in the Holocaust and for attacking the Soviet Union. Antonescu himself was executed 1 June 1946. By 1948, most non-Communist politicians were either executed, in exile or in prison.

Romania remained the only monarchy in the Eastern Bloc by 1947. On 30 December of that year, the Communists forced King Michael to abdicate. The Communists declared a People's Republic, formalized with the constitution of 13 April 1948.

The new constitution forbade and punished any association which had "fascist or anti-democratic nature". It also granted the freedom of press, speech and assembly for the working class. In the face of wide-scale killings, imprisonments and harassment of local peasants during forced collectivization, entire private property nationalization and political oppressiveness, the Constitution of 1948 and the subsequent basic texts were never

respected by governments or the new judges appointed during dictatorship.

The Communist government also disbanded the Romanian Greek-Catholic Uniate Church, declaring its merger with the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Early years of the communist state



1949 stamp celebrating "Romanian-Soviet friendship"

The early years of Communist rule in Romania were marked by repeated changes of course and by numerous arrests and imprisonments as factions contended for dominance. The country's resources were also drained by the Soviet's SovRom agreements, which facilitated shipping of Romanian goods to the Soviet Union at nominal prices. In all ministries there were Soviet "advisers" who reported directly to Moscow and held the real decision-making powers. All walks of life were infiltrated by agents and informers of the secret police.

In 1948 the earlier agrarian reform was reversed, replaced by a move toward collective farming. This resulted in forced collectivization, since wealthier peasants generally did not want to give up their land

voluntarily, and had to be "convinced" by beatings, intimidation, arrests and deportations.

On 11 June 1948, all banks and large businesses were nationalized.

In the Communist leadership, there appear to have been three important factions, all of them Stalinist, differentiated more by their respective personal histories than by any deep political or philosophical differences:

1. The "Muscovites", notably Ana Pauker and Vasile Luca, had spent the war in Moscow.
2. The "Prison Communists", notably Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, had been imprisoned during the war.
3. The somewhat less firmly Stalinist "Secretariat Communists", notably Lucrețiu Pătrășcanu had made it through the Antonescu years by hiding within Romania and had participated in the broad governments immediately after King Michael's 1944 coup.

Ultimately, with Joseph Stalin's backing, and probably due in part to the anti-Semitic policies of late Stalinism (Pauker was Jewish), Gheorghiu-Dej and the "Prison Communists" won out. Pauker was purged from the party (along with 192,000 other party members); Pătrășcanu was executed after a show trial.

The Gheorghiu-Dej era

Gheorghiu-Dej, a firm Stalinist, was not pleased with the reforms in Nikita Khrushchev's Soviet Union after Stalin's death in 1953. He also blanched at Comecon's goal of turning Romania into the "breadbasket" of the East Bloc, pursuing a program of the development of heavy industry. He also closed Romania's largest labor camps, abandoned the Danube–Black Sea Canal project, halted rationing and hiked workers' wages. Further, there was continuing resentment that historically Romanian lands remained part of the Soviet Union as the Moldavian SSR. These factors combined to put Romania under Gheorghiu-Dej on a relatively independent and nationalist route.

Gheorghiu-Dej identified with Stalinism, and the more liberal Soviet government threatened to undermine his authority. In an effort to reinforce his position, Gheorghiu-Dej pledged cooperation with any state, regardless of political-economic system, as long as it recognized international equality and did not interfere in other nations' domestic affairs. This policy led to a tightening of Romania's bonds with China, which also advocated national self-determination.

Gheorghiu-Dej resigned as the party's general secretary in 1954 but retained the premiership; a four-member collective secretariat, including Nicolae Ceaușescu, controlled the party for a year before Gheorghiu-Dej again took up the reins. Despite its new policy of international cooperation, Romania joined the Warsaw Treaty Organization

(Warsaw Pact) in 1955, which entailed subordinating and integrating a portion of its military into the Soviet military machine. Romania later refused to allow Warsaw Pact maneuvers on its soil and limited its participation in military maneuvers elsewhere within the alliance.

In 1956, the Soviet premier, Nikita Khrushchev, denounced Stalin in a secret speech before the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). Gheorghiu-Dej and the leadership of the Romanian Workers' Party (*Partidul Muncitoresc Român*, PMR) were fully braced to weather de-Stalinization. Gheorghiu-Dej made Pauker, Luca and Georgescu scapegoats for the Romanian communists' past excesses and claimed that the Romanian party had purged its Stalinist elements even before Stalin had died.

In October 1956, Poland's communist leaders refused to succumb to Soviet military threats to intervene in domestic political affairs and install a more obedient politburo. A few weeks later, the Communist Party in Hungary virtually disintegrated during a popular revolution. Poland's defiance and Hungary's popular uprising inspired Romanian students and workers to demonstrate in university and industrial towns calling for liberty, better living conditions, and an end to Soviet domination. Under the pretext that the Hungarian uprising might incite his nation's own revolt, Gheorghiu-Dej took radical measures which meant persecutions and jailing of various "suspects", especially people of Hungarian origin. He also advocated swift Soviet intervention, and the Soviet Union reinforced its military presence in Romania, particularly along the Hungarian border. Although Romania's unrest proved fragmentary and controllable, Hungary's was not, so in November Moscow mounted a bloody invasion of Hungary. Romania offered to take part in the military intervention in Hungary in 1956, but Nikita Khrushchev rejected the proposal.

After the Revolution of 1956, Gheorghiu-Dej worked closely with Hungary's new leader, János Kádár, who was installed by the Soviet Union. Romania took Hungary's former premier (leader of the 1956 revolution) Imre Nagy into custody. He was jailed at Snagov, north of Bucharest. After a series of interrogations by Soviets and Romanian authorities, Nagy was returned to Budapest for trial and execution.

In Transylvania, the Romanian authorities merged Hungarian and Romanian universities at Cluj, putting an end to the Hungarian Bolyai University, and also worked on gradually eliminating Hungarian education in middle schools by transforming them into Romanian ones.

Gheorghiu-Dej spread fears about Hungary wanting to take over Transylvania. He took a two-pronged approach to the problem, arresting the leaders of the Hungarian People's Alliance, but, under Soviet pressure, establishing a nominally autonomous Hungarian region in the Székely land.

Romania's government also took measures to allay domestic discontent by reducing investments in heavy industry, boosting output of consumer goods, decentralizing economic management, hiking wages and incentives, and instituting elements of worker management. The authorities eliminated compulsory deliveries for private farmers but reaccelerated the collectivization program in the mid-1950s, albeit less brutally than earlier. The government declared collectivization complete in 1962, when collective and state farms controlled 77% of the arable land.

Despite Gheorghiu-Dej's claim that he had purged the Romanian party of Stalinists, he remained susceptible to attack for his obvious complicity in the party's activities from 1944 to 1953. At a plenary PMR meeting in March 1956, Miron Constantinescu and Iosif Chișinevschi, both Politburo members and deputy premiers, criticized Gheorghiu-Dej. Constantinescu, who advocated a Khrushchev-style liberalization, posed a particular threat to Gheorghiu-Dej because he enjoyed good connections with the Moscow leadership. The PMR purged Constantinescu and Chișinevschi in 1957, denouncing both as Stalinists and charging them with complicity with Pauker. Afterwards, Gheorghiu-Dej faced no serious challenge to his leadership. Ceaușescu replaced Constantinescu as head of PMR cadres.

Persecution, the labor camp system and anti-communist resistance

Harsh persecutions of any real or imagined enemies of the Communist government started with the Soviet occupation in 1945. The Soviet army behaved as an occupation force (although theoretically it was an ally against Nazi Germany), and could arrest virtually anyone at will, for perceived "fascist" or "anti-Soviet" activities.

Shortly after Soviet occupation, ethnic Germans (who were Romanian citizens and had been living as a community in Romania for 800 years) were deported to the Donbas coal mines (see Flight and expulsion of Germans from Romania during and after World War II). Despite the King's protest, who pointed out that this

was against international law, an estimated 70,000 men and women were forced to leave their homes, starting in January 1945, before the war had even ended. They were loaded in cattle cars and put to work in the Soviet mines for up to ten years as "reparations", where about one in five died from disease, accidents and malnutrition.

Once the Communist government became more entrenched, the number of arrests increased. All strata of society were involved, but particularly targeted were the pre-war elites, such as intellectuals, clerics, teachers, former politicians (even if they had left-leaning views) and anybody who could potentially form the nucleus of anti-Communist resistance.

The existing prisons were filled with political prisoners, and a new system of forced labor camps and prisons was created, modeled after the Soviet Gulag. A futile project to dig the Danube-Black Sea Canal served as a pretext for the erection of several labor camps, where numerous people died. Some of the most notorious prisons included Sighet, Gherla, Pitești and Aiud, and forced labor camps were set up at lead mines and in the Danube Delta.

The prison in Pitești was the epicenter of a particularly vicious communist "experiment" during this era. It involved both psychological and physical torture, resulting in the total breakdown of the individual. The ultimate aim was to force prisoners to "confess" to imaginary crimes or "denounce" themselves and others, therefore prolonging their prison sentences. This "experiment" resulted in numerous suicides inside the prison and was ultimately stopped.

The Stalinist measures of the Communist government included deportation of peasants from the Banat (south-east Transylvania, at the border with Yugoslavia), started on 18 June 1951. About 45,000 people were given two hours to collect their belongings, loaded up in cattle cars under armed guard, and were then forcibly "resettled" in barren spots on the eastern plains (Bărăgan). This was meant as an intimidation tactic to force the remaining peasants to join collective farms. Most deportees lived in the Bărăgan for 5 years (until 1956), but some remained there permanently.

Anti-communist resistance also had an organized form, and many people opposing the government took up arms and formed partisan groups, comprising 10–40 people. There were attacks on police posts and sabotage. Some of the famous partisans were Elisabeta Rizea from Nucșoara and Gheorghe Arsenescu. Despite a large number of secret police (*Securitate*) and army troops massed against them, armed resistance in the mountains continued until the early 1960s, and one of the best known partisan leaders was not captured until 1974.

Another form of anti-communist resistance, non-violent this time, was the student movement of 1956. In reaction to the anti-communist revolt in Hungary, echoes were felt all over the Eastern bloc. Protests took place in some university centers resulting in numerous arrests and expulsions. The most organized student movement was in Timișoara, where 3000 were arrested.^[12] In Bucharest and Cluj, organized groups were set up which tried to make common cause with the anti-communist movement in Hungary and coordinate activity. The authorities' reaction was immediate – students were arrested or suspended from their courses, some teachers were dismissed, and new



Resistance in the early years

associations were set up to supervise student activities.

The Ceaușescu government

Gheorghiu-Dej died in 1965 in unclear circumstances (his death apparently occurred when he was in Moscow for medical treatment) and, after the inevitable power struggle, was succeeded by the previously obscure Nicolae Ceaușescu. Where Gheorghiu-Dej had hewed to a Stalinist line while the Soviet Union was in a reformist period, Ceaușescu initially appeared to be a reformist, precisely as the Soviet Union was headed into its neo-Stalinist era under Leonid Brezhnev.

Gheorghiu-Dej exploited the Soviet–Chinese dispute in his last two years and began to oppose the hegemony of the Soviet Union from a Romanian national position. Ceaușescu, supported by a part of the former collaborators of Gheorghiu-Dej, like Maurer, continued this line which was naturally very popular in the country. The relations with Western countries, but also with many other states, began to be strengthened in what seemed to be the national interest of Romania. The forced Soviet (mostly Russian) cultural influence in the country which characterized the fifties was stopped.

The first years

In 1965, following the example of Czechoslovakia, the name of the country was changed to Republica Socialistă România (RSR, The Socialist Republic of Romania), and PMR's old name was restored, and it once again became Partidul Communist Român (PCR, The Romanian Communist Party).

In his early years in power, Ceaușescu was genuinely popular, both at home and abroad. Agricultural goods were abundant, consumer goods began to reappear, there was a cultural thaw, and, what was important abroad, he spoke out against the 1968 Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. While his reputation at home soon paled, he continued to have uncommonly good relations with Western governments and with international capitalist institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank because of his independent political line. Romania under Ceaușescu maintained and sometimes improved diplomatic and other relations with, among others, West Germany, Israel, China, Albania, and Pinochet's Chile, all for various reasons not on good terms with Moscow.

Human rights issues

Concerns over aging populace resulted in reproductive freedoms being severely restricted. Wishing to increase the birth rate, in 1966, Ceaușescu promulgated the decree 770 restricting abortion and contraception: only women over the age of 45 who had at least four children were eligible for either; in 1989, the number was increased to five children.^[13] Mandatory gynecological revisions and penalizations against unmarried people and childless couples completed the natalist measures.

Other restrictions of human rights included invasion of privacy by the political police (the "Securitate"), censorship, relocation, but not on the same scale as in the 1950s.



The Coat of Arms of The Socialist Republic of Romania
(1965–89)



1979 stamp

During the Ceaușescu era, there was a secret ongoing "trade" between Romania on one side and Israel and West Germany on the other side, under which Israel and West Germany paid money to Romania to allow Romanian citizens with certified Jewish or German ancestry to emigrate to Israel and West Germany, respectively.

Industrialisation

Ceaușescu's Romania continued to pursue Gheorghiu-Dej's policy of industrialization. Romania made progress with the economy. From 1951 to 1974, Romania's gross industrial output increased at an average annual rate of 13 percent. Several branches of heavy industry were founded, including the machine-tool, tractor, and automotive industries; large-tonnage shipbuilding; the manufacture of electric diesel locomotives; and the electronics and petrochemical industries.

In the realm of foreign trade, Socialist Romania exported machinery, consumer goods, chemicals, agricultural products, and petroleum products.



23 August parade

Also, after a visit to North Korea, Ceaușescu developed a vision of completely remaking the country; this became known as systematization. A significant portion of the capital, Bucharest, was torn down to make way for the Casa Poporului (now House of Parliament) complex and Centrul Civic (Civic Center), but the December 1989 Revolution left much of the huge complex unfinished, such as a new National Library and the National Museum of History. During the huge demolitions in the 1980s, this area was popularly called "Ceașima" – a bitter satirical allusion of Ceaușescu and Hiroshima.^[14] Currently it is being redeveloped as a commercial area known as Esplanada.

Prior to the mid-1970s, Bucharest, as most other cities, was developed by expanding the city, especially towards the south, east and west. High density dormitory neighborhoods were built at the outskirts of the city, some (such as Drumul Taberei, Berceni, Titan or Giurgiului) of architectural and urban planning value. Conservation plans were made, especially during the 1960s and early 1970s, but all was halted, after Ceaușescu embarked on what is known as "The Small Cultural Revolution" ("Mica revoluție culturală"), after visiting North Korea and the People's Republic of China and then delivering a speech known as the July Theses. In the late 1970s, the construction of the Bucharest Metro system was started. After two years, 10 km of network were already complete and after another 2 years, 9 km of tunnels were ready for use. By 17 August 1989, 49.01 km of the subway system and 34 stations were already in use.

The big earthquake of 1977 shocked Bucharest; many buildings collapsed, and many others were weakened. This was the backdrop that led to a policy of large-scale demolition which affected monuments of historical significance or architectural masterpieces such as the monumental Văcărești Monastery (1722), the "Sfânta Vineri" (1645) and "Enei" (1611) Churches, the Cotroceni (1679) and Pantelimon (1750) Monasteries, and the art deco "Republic's Stadium" (ANEF Stadium, 1926). Even the Palace of Justice – built by Romania's foremost architect, Ion Mincu – was scheduled for demolition in early 1990, according to the systematisation papers. Yet another tactic was abandoning and neglecting buildings and bringing them into such a state that they would require being torn down.

Thus, the policy towards the city after the earthquake was not one of reconstruction, but one of demolition and building anew. Post-earthquake estimates commissioned by the office of the city's mayor judged that only 23 buildings were beyond repair, none of them of any historic value. An analysis by the Union of Architects, commissioned in 1990, claims that over 2000 buildings were torn down, with over 77 of very high architectural importance, most of them in good condition. Even Gara de Nord (the city's main train station), listed on the Romanian Architectural Heritage List, was scheduled to be torn down and replaced in early 1992.

Despite all of this, and despite the appalling treatment of HIV-infected orphans,^[13] the country continued to have a notably good system of schools. Also, not every industrialization project was a failure: Ceaușescu left Romania with a reasonably effective system of power generation and transmission, gave Bucharest a functioning subway, and left many cities with an increase in habitable apartment buildings.

The 1980s: severe rationing and construction of the Palace of the People

Romania continued to make progress. High rates of growth in production created conditions for raising living standards of the people. From 1950 to the mid-1980s, the average net wages increased more than eightfold. The consumption fund increased 22-fold, and a broad program of building cultural facilities and housing was carried out. Over 80 percent of the country's population had moved to new apartments during this period.^[15]



A queue for cooking oil, Bucharest, late 1980s

Measures in the mechanization and chemicalization of farming helped to increase the output of agricultural products. In 1950, more than 300 kg of cereals was gathered per head of the population, whereas in 1982 this amount increased to 1 ton. Meat production increased from 29.5 to 100 kg.^[15]

In the late 1980s, the United Nations Human Development report classified Romania as having had high human development. The life expectancy was 71 years, literacy rate at 96%, and the Real GDP per capita at \$3000.^[16]

In the 1980s, Ceaușescu became simultaneously obsessed with repaying Western loans and with building himself a palace of unprecedented proportions, along with an equally grandiose neighborhood, Centrul Civic, to accompany it. These led to a shortage of available goods for the average Romanian. By 1984, despite high crop yield and food production, food rationing was introduced on a wide scale (the government promoted it as "a means to reduce obesity" and "rational eating").

Bread, milk, butter, cooking oil, sugar, pork, beef, chicken, and in some places even potatoes were rationed in most of Romania by 1989, with rations being made smaller every year (by 1989, a person could legally buy only 10 eggs per month, half to one loaf of bread per day, depending on the place of residence, or 500 grams of any kind of meat). Most of what was available were export rejects, as most of the quality goods were exported, even underpriced, in order to obtain hard currency, either to pay the debt, or to push forward in the ever-growing pursuits of heavy industrialisation.

Romanians became accustomed to "*tacâmuri de pui*" (chicken wings, claws and so on), mixed cooking oil (mostly unrefined, dark, soy oil, of the poorest grade), "București Salami" (consisting of soy, bonemeal, offal and pork lard), ersatz coffee (made of barley), oceanic fish and sardines as a meat replacement, cheese mixed with starch or flour, and untasty juices as Cil-Cola or Cireșica. Even these products were in very scarce supply, with queues whenever such products were available. All quality products, such as Sibiu and Victoria Salami, high- and mid-grade meats, and Dobrudja peaches were designated as "export-only", and were available to Romanians only on the thriving black market.

By 1985, despite Romania's huge refining capacity, petrol was strictly rationed, with supplies drastically cut, a Sunday curfew was instated, and many buses used methane propulsion (they were mockingly named "bombs"); taxis were converted to burning methanol. Electricity was rationed to divert supplies to heavy industry, with a maximum monthly allowed consumption of 20 kWh per family (everything over this limit was heavily taxed), and very frequent blackouts (generally 1–2 hours daily). Only one in five streetlights was to be kept on, and television was reduced to a single channel broadcasting just 2 hours each day.

Gas and heating were also turned off; people in cities had to turn to natural gas containers ("*butelii*"), or charcoal stoves, even though they were connected to the gas mains. According to a decree of 1988, all public spaces had to be kept to a temperature of no more than 16 degrees Celsius (about 61 degrees Fahrenheit) in winter (the only institutions exempted were kindergartens and hospitals), with some (such as factories) kept at no more than 14 degrees (about 57 degrees Fahrenheit).

All shops were to close no later than 5:30 pm, in order to preserve electricity. A thriving black market appeared, with Kent cigarettes becoming Romania's second currency (it was illegal and punished with up to ten years imprisonment to own or trade any foreign currency), used to purchase everything, from food to clothes or medicine. The quality of health care dropped substantially, as drugs were no longer imported.

The last years: increased control over society

Control over society became stricter and stricter, with an East German-style phone bugging system installed, and with Securitate recruiting more agents, extending censorship and keeping tabs and records on a large segment of the population. By 1989, according to CNSAS (the Council for Studies of the Archives of the Former Securitate), one in three Romanians was an informant for the Securitate. Due to this state of affairs, income from tourism dropped substantially, the number of foreign tourists visiting Romania dropping by 75%, with the three main tour operators that organized trips in Romania leaving the country by 1987.

There was also a revival of the effort to build:

- a Danube–Black Sea Canal, which was completed,
- a nationwide canal system and irrigation network, some of which was completed, but most of which is still a project, or was abandoned,
- an effort to improve the railway system with electrification and a modern control system,
- a nuclear power plant at Cernavodă,
- a national hydroelectric power system, including the Porțile de Fier power station on the Danube in cooperation with Yugoslavia,
- a network of oil refineries,
- a fairly developed oceanic fishing fleet,
- naval shipyards at Constanța,
- a good industrial basis for the chemical and heavy machinery industries, and
- a rather well-developed foreign policy.



A propaganda poster on the streets of Bucharest, 1986. The caption reads "65 years since the creation of the Romanian Communist Party", while in the background it reads "Ceaușescu Era" and "The Party. Ceaușescu. Romania"

Pollution

Another legacy of this era was pollution: Ceaușescu's government scored badly on this count even by the standards of the Eastern European communist states. Examples include Copșa Mică with its infamous Carbon Powder factory (in the 1980s, the whole city could be seen from satellite as covered by a thick black cloud), Hunedoara, or the plan, launched in 1989, to convert the unique Danube Delta – a UNESCO World Heritage site – to plain agricultural fields.

Downfall

Brașov Riot

December 1989 was the last act of an end that started in 1987, in Brașov. The anti-communist riot in Brașov on 15 November 1987 was the main political event that announced the imminent fall of communism in Romania.^[17]

The revolt started at the enterprise of Trucks Brașov, by a strike begun in the night of 14 November, on the night-shift, and continued the next morning with a march downtown, in front of the Council of the Romanian Communist Party.

The population had heard about this event through Radio Free Europe. Emil Hurezeanu tells: "I remember that Neculai Constantin Munteanu, the moderator of the show, started the broadcast: 'Brașov! So Brașov! Now it started!' This was the tone of the whole broadcast. We had interviews, information, interpretations of some political interpretations, older press articles announcing open street protests against Ceaușescu."

The reprisals against strikers were rapid. The workers were arrested, imprisoned and their families terrorized, but this act of courage on the part of the workers of Brașov set the stage for future mass revolts.

In this sense, from Radio Free Europe, Mr. Emil Hurezeanu says: "... All these have been turned into an offensive. The reaction of the regime was expected.. Very soon it was seen that the regime wants to hide it, to cancel it, practically not to respond to claims, not to take measures, to change anything, not to turn this protest into a public debate or even inside the party, in the Political Executive Committee. And then, the recipe of a street confrontations with the regime became the only...possible. It became the leitmotif of all the media analysis. [...] It was the beginning of an action against the system that comprises more items. It was a labor protest in a citadel of Ceaușescu, it was an antidictatorial message, it was a clear political context: the pressures of Moscow, Ceaușescu's refusal to accept the demands of Gorbachev, the breaking with the West, who changed the views towards the regime – all these have made us to believe that the beginning of the end was coming".

Protests in 1989, before the Revolution

In March 1989, several leading activists of the PCR protested in a letter that criticized the economic policies of Nicolae Ceaușescu, but shortly thereafter Ceaușescu achieved a significant political victory: Romania paid off its external debt of about US\$11 billion several months before the time that even the Romanian dictator expected. Ceaușescu was formally reelected secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party—the only political party of the Romanian Socialist Republic—on 14 November at the party's XIV Congress.

On 11 November 1989, before the party congress, on Bucharest's Brezoianu Street and Kogalniceanu Boulevard, students from Cluj-Napoca and Bucharest demonstrated with placards "We want Reforms against Ceaușescu government." The students—Paraschivescu Mihnea, Vulpe Gratian, the economist Dan Caprariu from Cluj and others—were arrested and investigated by the Securitate at the Rahova Penitentiary, accused of propaganda against the socialist society. They were released on 22 December 1989 at 14.00. There were other letters and other attempts to draw attention to the economic, cultural, and spiritual oppression of Romanians, but they served only to intensify the activity of the communist police and Securitate.

Romanian Revolution



Protesters in Bucharest during the 1989 revolution

On 16 December a protest broke out in Timișoara in response to an attempt by the government to evict the dissident pastor László Tőkés. Tőkés had recently made critical comments against the regime to the Hungarian media,^[18] and the government alleged that he was inciting ethnic hatred. His parishioners gathered around his home to protect him from harassment and eviction. Many passers-by, including Romanian students, spontaneously joined the protest. Subsequently, police and *Securitate* forces showed up at the scene. By 7:30 pm, the protest had spread, and the original cause became largely irrelevant. Some of the protesters attempted to burn down the building that housed

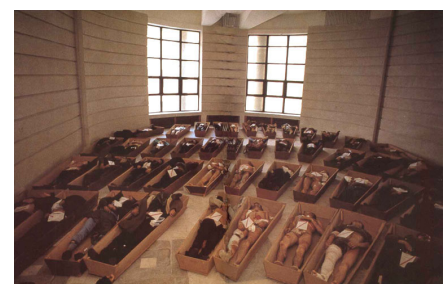
the District Committee of the Romanian Communist Party (PCR). The *Securitate* responded with tear gas and water jets, while the police beat up rioters and arrested many of them. Around 9:00 pm, the rioters withdrew. They regrouped eventually around the Romanian Orthodox Cathedral and started a protest march around the city, but again they were confronted by the security forces.

Riots and protests resumed the following day, 17 December. The rioters broke into the District Committee building. The army failed to establish order and chaos ensued with gunfire, fights, burned cars, and casualties.

Unlike the Soviet Union at the same time, Romania did not develop a large, privileged elite. Outside of Ceaușescu's own relatives, government officials were frequently rotated from one job to another and moved around geographically, to reduce the chance of anyone developing a power base. This prevented the rise of the Gorbachev-era reformist communism found in Hungary or the Soviet Union. Similarly, unlike in Poland, Ceaușescu reacted to strikes entirely through a strategy of further oppression. Romania was nearly the last of the Eastern European communist governments to fall; its fall was also the most violent up to that time. The events of December 1989 are much in dispute.

Protests and riots broke out in Timișoara on 17 December and soldiers opened fire on the protesters, killing about 100 people. After cutting short a two-day trip to Iran, Ceaușescu held a televised speech on 20 December, in which he condemned the events of Timișoara, considering them an act of foreign intervention in the internal affairs of Romania and an aggression through foreign secret services on Romania's sovereignty, and declared National Curfew, convoking a mass meeting in his support in Bucharest for the next day. The uprising of Timișoara became known across the country, and in the morning of 21 December, protests spread to Sibiu, Bucharest, and elsewhere.

On 21 December the meeting at the Central Committee Building (CC) in Bucharest turned into chaos and finally into riot, Ceaușescu hiding himself in the CC Building after losing control of his own "supporters". The night of 21 December was a fight between protesters and the secret police *Securitate*, police and part of the army forces. More than 1100 protesters lost their lives during the fights over the next few Revolution days. On the morning of the next day, 22 December, it was announced that the army general Vasile Milea was dead by suicide; people were besieging the CC Building, while the *Securitate* did nothing to help Ceaușescu. Ceaușescu soon fled in an helicopter from the rooftop of the CC Building, only to find himself abandoned in Târgoviște, where he and his wife Elena were finally formally tried and shot by a kangaroo court on 25 December.^[19]



Dead laying in a morgue killed during the Romanian Revolution of 1989.

Controversy over the events of December 1989

For several months after the events of December 1989, it was widely argued that Ion Iliescu and the National Salvation Front (FSN) had merely taken advantage of the chaos to stage a coup. While, ultimately, a great deal did change in Romania, it is still very contentious among Romanians and other observers as to whether this was their intent from the outset, or merely pragmatic playing of the cards they were dealt. It is clear that by December 1989 Ceaușescu's harsh and counterproductive economic and political policies had cost him the support of many government officials and even the most loyal Communist Party cadres, most of whom joined forces with the popular revolution or simply refused to support him. This loss of support from government officials ultimately set the stage for Ceaușescu's demise.

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External links

- Ceausescu.org (<http://www.ceausescu.org/>) – extensive website on Communist Romania.
- MemorialSighet.ro (<http://www.memorialsighet.ro/en/>) – memorial site to the victims of Communism in Romania, based at Sighet prison.

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Peleş Castle

Căile Ferate Române (*Romanian Railways*, abbreviated as **CFR**) is the official designation of the state railway carrier of Romania. CFR manages the fourth-largest railway network in Europe, in terms of volume of passengers and freight. The network is significantly interconnected with other European railway networks, providing pan-European passenger and freight services. CFR as an entity has been operating since 1880, even though the first railway on current Romanian territory was opened in 1854.

Technically, CFR is divided into four autonomous companies: *CFR Călători*, which is responsible for passenger services; *CFR Marfă*, responsible for freight transport; *CFR Infrastructură*, which manages the infrastructure on the Romanian railway network; and *Societatea Feroviară de Turism*, or SFT, which manages scenic and tourist railways.

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Timișoara listen (Hungarian: *Temesvár*, German: *Temeswar* / *Temeschburg*, Serbian: *Temišvar*, Turkish: *Tamişvar*) is a city in the Banat region of western Romania. With a population of 305,977 in 2004 (329,554 in 2000), it is the capital of Timiș County. It is frequently known in English simply as Timisoara.

All of the variants of its name derive from the Timiș River, known in Roman Antiquity as river *Tibisis* or *Tibiscus*. Timișoara is a multicultural city with influential minorities, primarily Germans, Magyars, and Serbs, as well as Italians, and Greeks. It was the birthplace of Johnny Weissmuller (an Olympic swimmer, best known for his role as Tarzan). Gustave Eiffel, the creator of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, built Timișoara's footbridge over the Bega. An industrial city with extensive services, it was the first European city to be lit by electric street lamps (the city was part of Austria-Hungary then).

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...that the **Danube Delta** in Romania is Europe's second largest and best preserved delta?

...that the **Romanian language** is the only Romance language where definite articles are enclitic?

...that, with an area of 238,391 km², **Romania** is the largest country in Southeastern Europe?

...that Romania's **Palace of Parliament**, despite the building process not being completely finished, is the biggest

building in Europe and the second-largest building in the world?

...that Romania renominated its currency, the **leu**, in July 2005, so that 10,000 old *lei* equal 1 new *leu*?

...that **Timișoara**, a city in western Romania, was the first European city to have electric streetlights?

...that Bucharest's **RATB** mass transit network is the fourth largest in Europe?

...that Romania joined the EU on January 1, 2007?



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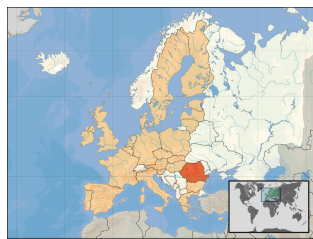
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